



NOV 29 1949
G 4218

X-

1842-1849

Ms

6

Se E

Vol. 4

New Bedford 13 Sept 1842

Capt Sulvin L. Adams

Edgerton - Dear Sir Enclosed is a
Policy of Insurance on Brig Pavilion for
\$4000 - also premium note for \$81.35 - The
note you will please sign and enclose it in
a letter to me by first packet - your premium
note for insurance on Ship Mary I have
received - Respectfully yours
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 16 Sept 1842

L. Cook Jr Esq

Dear Sir

Enclosed you have premium
notes no 11929 & 11930 -

Respectfully yr obt Servt
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 17 Sept. 1842

Messrs E. J. Hastings & Co.

Gent.

We have purchased this
morning about 1000 galls. crude sperm oil at 68c.
four months credit interest added - 33 p^{ct}. head, &
light colored; and shall draw on you for the pay-
ment of it. - 1000 bbls were sold a few days since
at 70c. and that still remains the asking price.

Your favors of 12 & 14 inst. were duly rec^d. The
casks & tierces of dark Oil are rec^d. - We will do the
best we can with it. We have not been able to
purchase Spring Oil at a price that we can make
anything on it. to sell at 70c in Boston, or even to
make both ends meet. The best offer we have had is
68c. 1 p^{ct} off for cash, or 70c. 6 mos. We think the racked
Oil will answer our purpose for the present, by pump-
ing it off from the top as it may be wanted. There is no
good bleached winter whale oil here. If you need it
you must trust to buying it in Boston. W. J. R.

expects to be in Boston on Monday -

Respectfully Yours -

Wm J. Russell & Co

New Bedford 19. Sept 1842

Messrs. E. J. Hastings & Co.

Gentl.

Your letter of 17th inst. did not reach us until this morning after the Merch^{ant} train had left. The Oil you ordered will go tomorrow. Invoice is annexed. We have purchased about 400 Galls. more of crude ~~body~~ oil at 62c. lower credit. Int. added -

Very Truly Yours

Wm J. Russell & Co.

I have postponed going to Boston until tomorrow.

W. J. R.

New Bedford 24 Sept. 1842

Messrs E. J. Hastings & Co.

Gentl.

We have your favor of 22nd inst. ordering 800 galls bleached winter oil - The last Cistern that was bleached, looked very bright and white when it was drawn off, but on examining it this morning, it appears to be milky, and we do not like to send it in this state. If it does not become clear by lying out in the sun today, it must be heated, which will take a day or two, before we can send it. For present use we have sent you ~~one~~ ^{two} kds, & two bbls. from the former cistern - also two kds of the dark Spring Oil. As it will be several days before we can bleach all the dark oil, we thought best to send what there is made - Invoice is annexed. -

There have been several sales of Crude Sperm oil during my absence at 68cs cash (money) and 69cs credit - and there appears to be a little more stiffness in the holder -

Respectfully Yours, Wm J. Russell & Co.

We have drawn on you today under date of 16th inst. at
6 mos. favor (J. R. Greene & Co.) for \$260.04. For 407 galls.
Crude body Oil @ 62 c. - 252.34
6 mos. 3 days int. 7.70
\$260.04

We have previously drawn on you under date of 17th
inst. at 4 mos favor Parkhurst & Lincoln for. 722.04
4 mos 3 ds. int 14.50
\$736.54

The Rail Road Company have passed a vote deducting
10 per on the freight of Oil per their Road, on condition
that the parties will engage to send all their Oil
over the Rail Road for the year Round. Shall we
accept of these terms - we think we had better.

Wm J. Russell & Co.

New Bedford 26 Sept 1842

Messrs E. J. Hastings & Co.

Gent. We have sent you
per Rail Road to day 100 Boxes Sperm Candles which
you ordered as per Invoice annexed. The bleached White
Oil we shall try to have ready to forward tomorrow. To
supply you with Summer or Fall oil for immediate
use, we shall have to buy Crude oil & Pump it off. We
are offered a lot this morning 68 c 5, 6 & 7 mos credit. Int-
rest added. We have not yet examined it. If it proves
to be light colored we shall close the bargain.

Respectfully Yours

Wm J. Russell & Co.

New Bedford 27 Sept. 1842

Messrs E. J. Hastings & Co.
Gent^l

Annexed you have
Invoiced 9 casks Bleached Winter oil sent by Rail
Road this morning. which makes up about the
quantity you ordered. There is more ready whenever
you want it. We have closed the bargain for the oil
we mentioned being in treaty for yesterday. - say 200 bbls
at 68cs. 5. 6 & 7 mos. credit interest added. We shall pump
off a part of it so as to supply your immediate wants.

Very Truly Yours

Wm. J. Russell & Co.

New Bedford 28 Sept 1842

Elijah Swift Esq.
Falmouth.

Dear Sir,

I have received a letter
from Mr. T. Cook Jr. President of the Mutual
Safety Insurance Co. of New York. Stating that you
had represented to Mr. Folger of Nantucket that, as
that company would not pay a loss in this place,
the people here had determined not to insure any
more in that office. This assertion as regards New-
Bedford, I know is an entire mistake. That com-
pany have the entire confidence of the merchants of
New Bedford, and they are daily making insurance
with them through me their agent. - Mr. Cook sup-
poses the case of Ship Olive & Elira lately arrived
here from Fayal, had been misrepresented to you and
given rise to such a story.

The owners of that Ship claimed a total loss,
but they have not yet presented a statement of their

claim, or a single paper or account showing the amount of their demand - and the company are wholly in the dark, as to what they are entitled to. You must therefore see the injustice of reporting a story so injurious to their interest. At least it is premature and will be time enough to censure them after the case is settled, if they deserve it. The directors of that company are composed of some of the first merchants in New York, and are as honorable and as just men as are to be found any where, and will not hesitate to pay any just demand upon this office - I ask the favor of you to contradict the story as far as you have reported it, and suspend your judgment of the case until it is settled -

I am Respectfully

Your obt. Servt.

Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 30 Sept. 1842

Messrs E. T. Hastings & Co.
Gentl.

We have drawn today the following drafts on you under date of 29th inst. in favor of T. & A. R. Nye - viz.

Draft at 5 months. for	1486.73
do - 6 - " "	1486.73
do - 7 - " "	1486.74
	<u>\$4460.20</u>

For Sperm oil purchased of them viz:-

10 basks head matter	2121 gals
23 " Body oil -	4244

Net gals. 6365 & 68s. 4328.20

6 mos 3 as int. 132.00

\$4460.20

We have your favor of 28th inst. The balance of the dark oil you shall have in a few days. we have been engaged in boiling the crude oil & could not attend to it this week. The third pressing which you say has been

we did not expect would bear such cold weather as we have had. We were in hopes it was all worked off by this time. We have another cistern of bleached Winter oil all ready for you. We have engaged a new cooper, and will try to have the casks in better order than they have been of late. There seems to be a little more anxiety on the part of the holders of crude Sperm oil to sell within a few days, but there are a very few willing to sell under 70 cts. Crocker paid 68½ cts a few days since.

Very Truly yours
Wm J. Russell & Co.

New Bedford 6 Octr 1842

Messrs E. J. Hastings & Co.
Gentn.

Your favor of 4th inst came to hand during my absence of a day or two from home. The oil which you ordered as per annexed invoice went by this morning's train. The cold weather has clouded the racked oil, and we could not make out more than three casks to send you this morning that is clear. The taught-pressed oil will be in order to press next Monday. It will make tolerable Fall oil. We can send you some of it next Tuesday. We shall also have some oil in order for straining about the middle of next week.

Respectfully Yours
W. J. Russell & Co.

New Bedford 7 Oct 1842

L. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Herewith you have an application for insurance on Oil on barge Rajah & on oil to be obtained - Policy to be filled as similar ones have been - Also for Insurance on Spum Oil ~~on~~ ^{board} per one of the packet Ships from New York to London - one of our officers offered to take it at 1% I therefore thought myself justified in taking it - although I consider the prem. rather low - As I may have similar application, please inform me whether I may take them at the same rate -

Mr Swift has sent me a message that he had recd my letter, and that he had no idea the observation he made to Mr Folger respecting the case of Ship Oliver & Oliver would be taken so seriously - that he spoke in a joking way without any intention of doing an injury to your office. & that Mr Folger made more of his observations than the circumstances warranted - The story has had no circulation here -

Respectfully yr obt Servt
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 11 Oct 1842

Messrs E. I. Hastings & Co.
Gentl.

We have your favors of 7th & 8th inst. We send you today the bleached winter oil ordered, as per Invoice annexed. The barrels have arrived. They are a fair lot for the price, but some of them are worthless for oil, but will answer for stowage. We have not found any one in want of barrels at present. We were induced to purchase on the 8th inst. a very superior lot of crude Spum oil about 600 Bbls at 68cs 68ms. &c. Int. added, being one whale which was sent home from an outward bound ship. There has been no oil sold here at less than 68cs. but the holders evince more anxiety to

sell - and we should not be surprised if it declined a few cents. We shall not make any more purchases at present. We will advise you when we draw the drafts for the last purchase of oil.

Respectfully Yours

Wm J. Russell & Co.

New Bedford 11 Oct 1842

L. Cooke Esq
Pres. Mutual Safety Ins. Co.
New York

Dear Sir

Enclosed you have premium notes no. 12176 & 12177. There was no premium note forwarded for policy no. 12177. You will observe I have supplied it.

Yours Obedt. Servt.

Wm J. Russell.

New Bedford 12 Oct 1842

L. Cooke Esq

Dear Sir,

Your favor of yesterday's date I have received. Drew note no. 11677 for \$6.25 Calvin C Adams. Ship Mary, was enclosed in a letter to you dated 10th Sept. No 11900 for \$1.25 same person - Brig Pavillion, has not yet been received. Mr. Adams resides at Edgarton. I enclosed the policy and premium note in a letter the day I received it, requesting him to sign the note and return it to me. Since which I have not heard from him. I have written him again to forward the note without more delay and presume I shall receive it in a few days. No 11677 must have been misplaced in your office, and will probably come to light.

Very Truly Yours

Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 12 Oct. 1842

Messrs Brustlein, Hoops & Co.
New York
Gents.

Your favor of 10 inst I have received. I shall be very happy to serve you in the purchase of oil if it can be done to mutual advantage. The prices of whale oil is now beyond your limits. It has been shipped to Europe about as fast as it arrived, and there is not more on hand in this market than to exceed 500 Bbls. For which 55cts is asked. There are 2 or 3 ships with the whale oil daily expected - and 6 or 8 which may be expected in the course of 3 mos. But we may not have a single arrival for a month to come. I do not think the price of whale oil will go beyond 35cts this autumn or winter. It will however be very much governed by the prices in Europe.

There is a large stock of Sperm oil on hand in this market, and the price is lower than it has been for many years. The last sales of head and body together was 68cs per gall. on a credit with interest, but I am inclined to believe that an offer of 66cs cash would not be refused. At this price the value of Head matter if there was a full proportion say $\frac{1}{2}$. would be about 78cs per gall.

I am at a loss to know what you mean by bagged Spermaceti. In our process of manufacture it goes through 2 presses in bags. The first is called the black press, which takes out all the oil suitable for burning. The second is called the tawght press, which is much more powerful, and presses out the remainder of the oil and leaves the Spermaceti quite dry and ready for refining to be made into candles. I conclude from the price you name 19 or 20cs that it must be Spermaceti from the black press bags, as that would be worth about 18cs. at the present price of Sperm candles, whereas the tawght press Spermaceti would be worth 22 or 23cs per lb. Sperm oil will probably remain about the same

price, say not to exceed 68cs. unless there should be a demand for the London Market. There is some about being shipped there at this time from this place.

There is no whale bone here in first hands. Should there be any change in our market, you shall be informed of it immediately.

I am Respectfully Yrs Ob^t Serv^t
sign'd Wm^r J. Russell

New Bedford 12 Oct. 1842

Capt Calvin C. Adams

Edgartown.

Dear Sir

I wrote you on the 13th of last month enclosing a policy of Insurance on Brig Pavilion & Premium note for the same for \$9.25. requesting you to sign the Premium note & return it to me. Since which I have not had the pleasure of hearing from you. Have the goodness to attend to it immediately and send me the note by the first Packet.

I am Respectfully Yrs^d
(signed) Wm^r J. Russell

New Bedford 13 Oct. 1842

Messrs E. J. Hastings & Co.

Gentl.

Mr J. H. Bartlett

Having shown me a letter from you giving your consent to change the draft we drew on you dated 23rd Augst. at 4 mos. in his favor for one of the same tenor & date in favor Abm. B. Banker. we have accordingly done so. & received the first draft from him. and have made an endorsement upon it. showing the purpose for which it was given up.

We have passed to your credit today the proceeds of the tierce of dark oil received from you -

viz: - 1 Tierce galls - 67
wants 12

35 Net galls at 60c. 33.

Potash for cleaning the same Labor - 4.34

To the credit of E. J. Hastings & Co. \$ 28. 66

We have your favor of 10th inst. The casks of whale oil just has arrived and a part of the empty casks - The balance will probably come today -

We have finished pressing the Slaughter Press oil, and have about 500 Galls. on hand. It is dark colored a little better than the dark Oil we have sent you, and will answer we presume for the City Contract. Let us know when we shall send it. We are straining today, & can supply you with Salt Oil as you may want it. Let us know if you want any of it bleached.

We are paying 7c per lb. for Potash. If you can get first quality for less price, Please send us two casks per Packet - as the frst we suppose will be less than per Rail Road.

We are Respectfully Yours

(signed) Wm J. Russell & Co.

New Bedford 13 Oct. 1842

J. Cook Esq.

Dear Sir,

Cranston Wilcox asks of you to insure \$3000 on Barque *Oranto* and Outfits. Vessel valued at \$6000. Outfits at \$8000 at and from New Bedford on a whaling voyage to the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean, and until her return to New Bedford. Premium $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ for twelve months, - pro rata for a longer time.

In my letter yesterday I forgot to reply to your observation that you take no Prem. notes under \$50. It has always been the custom here to take Prem. notes for the small sum of \$15. I have refused to take any under \$20. It will be to your interest - I think to take notes for that amount say \$20. and I shall continue to do so unless otherwise ordered -

Very Truly Yours
(signed) Wm. S. Russell

New Bedford 17 Oct. 1842

Messrs E. J. Hastings & Co.

Gentl

Annexed you have Invoices & Casks Fall oil. Your favor of 14th is at hand. We would prefer to put off straining any more Oil until the last of this week, so as to give you some Fall bleached early next week. If that will do, as the weather has been rather warm, ~~this week~~ of late to make good oil.

The Ketchs have but just completed their stock, we will send you the amt. due you from them, for the use of the works, in our next. The whale oil shall have our attention. We notice you having sent 2 Casks of Potash per Packet.

Respectfully Yours
(signed) Wm. S. Russell & Co.

New Bedford 17 Oct. 1842

To Cook, Esq.

Dear Sir -

I regret to have to inform you of the loss of the Barque Plato at East Hampton Long Island. A letter from the wreck master to the owners of that vessel, states that she went on shore last Friday - that the mate & four seamen were drowned in attempting to reach the shore - That the vessel appeared to be breaking up, no further particulars given. Your office is on her \$7400. The Am Mutual \$8000. New Bedford Commercial \$10000. Fairhaven office \$10000. I have agreed with the other underwriters here to send Mr. May H. Bartlett, as our Agent to the wreck to save what he can for the benefit of all concerned. Mr. Bartlett is a very efficient man, has had some experience in such business, and I have the fullest confidence in him. He is well known to Mr. R. B. Muntz.

Respectfully Yours

(signed) Wm. Y. Russell

Policy on Barque Plato for East Hampton Melcos and 10th I have not yet Recd.

2 Tuns Body 1 Tun Head Matter 756 Gallons

460 Galls Winter Oil @ 70c	322.00
107 Lbs " " 65	69.55
80 Lammers " 60	48
16 Trought Press " 50	8.00
624 lb Candles 23	143.52
15 Galls in Sp allowed for wastage	<u>591.07</u>

736 Galls Crude oil @ 68c	514.08
Manufactg. 3 Tuns @ \$8	24.00
6 months Interest	<u>15.42</u>
Profit on 3 Tuns	<u>\$37.57</u>

No Allowance for Casks returned - Transportation considered as an offset for them.

New Bedford 18th Oct. 1842

Messrs E. J. Hastings & Co.
Gentl.

We annex a statement showing at what price we can afford winter Oil for the City Contract. At 70c p. Gallon there will be a profit of \$37.57 on 3 Tuns, which is equal to \$20½ for manufacturing, including the charge of \$24 - The Prices of the other qualities of Oil are, in our judgment, full low enough. And if you think there will be competitions, at a less price than 70c. it would be best perhaps to put it a little less rather than lose the contract - say at 68c. But we leave it to your judgment to do as you think best. There does not appear to be any probability of the rise of crude oil, - neither can we expect to buy any lower next winter than 68c. There have been no sales here at less than 68c. but there are but few purchasers at that price. there were some sales at 70c last week at a very long time. Very Respectfully
Yours, Wm. J. Russell & Co.
(Signed)

New Bedford 20th Oct. 1842

Capt Calvin C Adams.

Dear Sir

I have your letter of 17th Inst. saying you had forwarded me the premium note on Banque Pavilion. It has never come to hand. I therefore send you another, which you will please sign & forward to me as soon as possible -

Respectfully Yours

(Signed) Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 20th Oct. 1842

J Cook Esq

Dear Sir

Your favor of 15th inst. by private conveyance came to hand yesterday. The application in behalf of the Wilcox was not intended as an enquiry whether you would take the risk on Banque Obento. I bound the office to take it, on the day my letter was dated. you will recollect of cautioning me as to word my applications, as not to violate the laws of this state, and this application, as well as all others which I have made by letter was worded according to a form which you gave me. But when I name a premium at the foot of the application. It is intended to show, that I have bound the office to take the risk. The Obento was thoroughly repaired in New Bedford before she sailed on her present voyage, and is considered by the offices here as good a Risk as any vessel of her class, and they have taken \$10000 on her at the same rate, say 2 1/2% for 12 mos. & Pro Rate for a longer time.

In reply to your enquiry, "why have I not done more business for you", I have to state that there is too much Insurance Capital in this town and consequently a great competition among their

offices. Those who own Insurance stocks, which comprises a great portion of the Ship Owners will still adhere to their own offices. The Merchants here are about Establishing a Mutual office company, & should it go into operation, the Mch^{ts} & Mechanics companies will wind up. The Tannaher Co. have already passed a vote to wind up their business. all which will operate in favor of your office. - as it will lessen the insurance capitals.

A letter from Mr. Bartlett states that all the whale bone and 500 blbs of Oil was already saved from the wreck of the Plato - & they were discharging the oil as fast as possible. the vessel had not gone to pieces on the 17th.

Mr Allen is now in New York - when he returns I will get the prem. note exchanged

Very Respectfully Yours

(signed) Wm J Russell

New Bedford 22 Oct. 1842

Messrs E J Hastings & Co.

Quinta.
Your favor of 21st Inst, complaining of the last Fall Oil, went you, we have recd. We are surprised it proves so bad as you say. It was perfectly limpid and clear when shipped, & burnt very well. The first running from the strains was a little cloudy, and that was kept back to be run through the strains again. We were aware that on account of the late warm weather, we could not make first Rate Fall Oil, but had no doubt it would answer for immediate use. At the time it was shipped we had cold frosty nights, which caused it to chill we suppose. by the way, but if you let it stand still, it will soon settle

so as to have the tops clear, and what foots remain
had better be returned to us. The color we considered
very fair. It is only once in the while we can get
a lot of Oil that is very white. We are straining
some now, which we trust will be better, and
will send you some of it on Monday, but this
we cannot expect will be first rate Fall Oil; we
must have cold weather to make it.

As the season advances the Oil will be better,
and I shall strain no faster than you need it.

We write in haste from

Yours &c.

(signed) Wm J Russell & Co.

New Bedford 24 Oct. 1842

Messrs E. J. Hastings & Co.

Gentl.

We have sent you to day
per Rail Road 3 casks Fall Strained
Oil. Invoice annexed. It was perfectly
clear when put up, & is the best Oil that
the season, as the weather has been, will all-
ow to be made. As we mentioned in our
last, we must have cold weather to make
oil that will bear the cold. If you need
bleached Fall immediately, I cannot do
without it longer, it will be best to bleach
some in the black kettle and wait until
we can make better strained oil before we
bleach so much as a cistern full. We
have not yet got the account of Oil man-
ufactured by the Rotch's. They have been
absent from home

Respectfully Yours

(signed) Wm J Russell & Co.

New Bedford 24 Oct 1842

J Cook Esq

Dear Sir:

Herewith you have Got. C
Swift's & Danl Woods applications for insurance
and Lemington Wilcox's prem. note no. 12329.

The Barge Plato is insured as follows: -

Commercial	10000
Manhattan	10000
Mutual Safety	2400
On Vessel & Outfits - -	22400
Am Mutual	8000
Mutual Safety	5000
On Cargo - - -	13000

If she has 1700 blb whale Oil as reported &
a proportion of Bone the cargo will amount
to about \$22000 leaving \$11000 Insurable Inter-
est for the Owners and \$2000 over insured on
cargo and \$4000 on vessel. - I have no reason
to believe any fraud was intended.

The last accounts from Mr. Bartlett, state,
there was every probability of saving the whole
cargo, but I suppose you have later acc from him
than we have

Very Truly yours

(signed) Wm J Russell

New Bedford 27 Oct 1842

Mr Solomon C Swift

Edgartown

Dear Sir

Herewith I forward to you a policy of Insurance on Brig Delaware for \$700. and the Premium note for \$22²⁷/₁₀₀ which you will please sign and return to me with as little delay as possible

Respectfully Yours

(signed) Wm J Russell

New Bedford 27 Oct 1842

Messrs E & F Hastings & Co.

Gentle

Your favor of 26 inst is at hand. We have sent you by this morning's train 4 casks bleached Winter Oil, as per Invoice annexed. We could not get the 3 bbls ordered, ready today, but will forward them tomorrow, and also a cask of bleached Fall Oil.

You observe you do not often receive Oil on the day it is shipped. It goes regularly from the depot here - It must be detained at Tadm town I conclude, when they have a large freight. We will enquire into it and have it remedied.

Respectfully yours

(signed) Wm J Russell & Co.

New Bedford 27 Oct 1842

L. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Herewith you have Mr Allen's
prem. note no 12177, which has been exchanged as you
requested -

Your favor of 25 inst is at hand - When
I wrote you last, I thought your Policy on Barque
Plato was subsequent to all others, but I have been
informed by Mr Perry, that it is of the same date as the
Sun Office - And yet I do not feel quite satisfied that
it is so - but you can ascertain I suppose at the Sun
Office -

You ask "Suppose the vessel should be
actually a total loss how much of the outfits does the
actual total loss of the vessel involve, - It is the
established practice here to deduct from the net proceeds
of the cargo one fourth which is supposed to be
consumed of the outfits - That is, all expenses of
saving the cargo from the wreck and shipping to
a market and all expenses of selling the same and
the crew's shares are deducted from the gross sales,
and the one fourth deducted from the balance left.
Since writing you on the 24th I have been informed
that of the \$8000 insured on the Plato, at the Sun
Office \$2000 of it is on vessel. If so, it will reduce
the amount on cargo so much from my statement.

You warning that I must not let the agent
of the Sun Mutual go ahead of me, I shall
attend to. I do not much fear their rivalships,
of course they interfere some, but they have done
but little business so far.

I cannot obtain Daniel Wood's signature of his
prem. note to forward to you today. J. C. Swift's
has been sent to the Vineyard, for his signature.
Calvin C Adams note is not yet received. The
first I sent him was lost. I have sent him
another, which will probably be returned in a
few days. I presume Mr Bartlett with the

cargo of the Stato is in New York by this time

Yours Very truly

(signed) Wm J Russell

Since writing the above, I have recd Danl. Hoove's
prem note no. 12385 & forward herewith

W. J. R.

New Bedford 28th Oct 1842

Messrs E & J. Hastings & Co.

Gentl.

Annexed you have Invoice
1 Hhd bleached Fall oil and 5 Bbls Bleached
Winter Oil sent to the depot this morning.
We find on enquiry that the departure of the
merchandise train has been changed late-
ly, and that they now leave here at two
o'clock P.M. and arrive in Boston the next
morning at eight.

Nothing new in the oil market. The
nominal price for crude sperm oil is 68cs.
but some small lots have been sold for 65cs.
We were offered a lot of 150 Bbls yesterday at
65cs. less excise int. added, but the color did
not quite suit us. We shall purchase at that
price when a desirable lot offers, and more time
given.

Respectfully Yours

(signed) Wm J Russell & Co

New Bedford 28 Oct. 1842

J Cook Esq
Dear Sir

Your letter of 26 inst came to hand this morning. I have not given Mr. Perry notice that you refused to receive his abandonment, for a particular reason; For in my first interview with him, and before I had a chance to speak a word, he observed he had sent his abandonment to you, but repented of it as regarded the whale bone, as it was worth more than it was valued at in the Policy, and that he should give you notice, that he retracted the abandonment of the whale bone. When he made this declaration, I concluded it was best to keep quiet and say nothing about your refusal of his abandonment.

I conclude it does not admit of a question that Mr. Perry can abandon one part of the cargo and retain the other.

Respectfully Yours Chas. S. At.

(signed) Wm J Russell

New Bedford 29 Oct 1842 -

Messrs. Grinnell, Minturn & Co
Gentle

Your letter of 29 inst requesting information whether a son of Dr. Mott, could obtain a situation in some whaling ship from here, did not come to hand until last evening. The whaling ships which are now fitting, and nearly ready for sea, have their full complement of men engaged. It is necessary to look out some time beforehand to get a berth for one of young Mott's description. There is an objection to taking dissipated young gentlemen, who have never been accustomed to work, on board of whaling ships. They generally make poor sailors and often create disturbance on board the ship. These objections are at-

ways brought up. But I will try to get him a berth
in some Ship to sail this Fall, and If I succeed will
let you know it

Respectfully your Friend

Signed Wm J Russell

New Bedford 29 Oct. 1842

I Look for Easy

Dear Sir,

Herewith you have an applica-
tion for insurance on Ship Copico, now about ready for
sea. She is fitted for two years, and may perform the voy-
age in eighteen months. The risk of this description, 3pc
for eighteen months is now the established premium.
And such is the competition, that I am obliged to call
on ~~the~~ every owner of a Ship that is about ready for sea,
and invite them to get their insurance done with me,
or get no business.

The materials saved from Barque Plato have arrived
here and will be sold next Monday or Tuesday.

Respectfully Yours

Signed Wm J Russell

New Bedford 31 Oct. 1842

Messrs E. J. Hastings & Co.
Gentl.

Annexed you have Invoiced
4 Cask Bleach's White and 1 Cask Bleach's
Tall oil sent by Rail Road today - This is
about all the Bleach's White Oil we have on
hand, but we have another Cistern under way
today, and can supply you with 50 Bbls in
a few days if you want it. We are bleaching Tall
oil in the Black Kettle, to keep you supplied for
the present, and putting off straining as long as

we can, so as to give you good Fall oil, that cannot be complained of.

Respectfully yours

(signed) W. J. Russell & Co.

New Bedford 31 Oct. 1842

To Cook Esq.

Dear Sir,

Herewith you have an application for Insurance on catchings of Sperm Oil on board Ship Margaret Reist of St John's N. B. - for \$20,000 - also on ship Copic & outfit.

The Margaret Reist stands very fair at our offices and some of them have taken the vessel and outfit, and would take this risk on the cargo at the same rate 4pc. for the remainder of the voyage.

I have your favor of 29th inst. I do not pretend to be well versed in the laws of Insurance, and give up to your superior judgment

Very Truly yours

(signed) Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 1st Nov. 1842

To Cook Esq.

Dear Sir

I send you herewith two applications for Insurance on Ship Callao and one on Ship Copic. for small amounts. The Callao is a fine new ship, and I am in hopes to get more on her. One of our offices has offered to take her, warranting one year's premium, 2pc. and I may have to conform to these terms, should I take any more on her. Both Ships are bound to the N. W. Coast for Right Whales, and are expected to perform

their voyages in about two years

Very Truly yours

(signed) Wm. J. Russell.
Enclosed is Monon & Swift's promiss. note no. 12384
for \$22 $\frac{25}{100}$ - Calvin & Adams' note, not yet recd -

W. J. R.

New Bedford 2^d Nov. 1842

Messrs E. J. Hastings & Co.

Gentle

Annexed is invoice 4 casks
Full Strained Cit. Forwarded by Rail Road today,
which we think will suit you in color & quality.
We have your favor of 31st Ult., and note your remarks
respecting the price of crude Spinn. Cit. We
had previously determined not to buy at present,
on account of the frequent solicitations we have
had within a few days to buy at 65cs. We are
now convinced it must go lower although we would
not have believed it a few weeks ago. If you purchase
in Boston we would not advise you to give
over 60cs.

The price at which the City contract is taken has
cast something of a damper on prices here

Respectfully yours

(signed) Wm. J. Russell & Co.

New Bedford 2^d Novr. 1842

Z. Cook Esq.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is an application for \$12000 Insurance on Ship Magnolia & Outfits.

The Magnolia is bound to the N. W. Coast for whale oil, and may possibly perform the voyage in 18 months, but it is much more likely will be gone two years & upwards - but our offices take risks now warranting one years premium when the Owners insist upon it, and we must conform - I believe there is no fear that premiums will go below 2% per annum, if they should, it will be hardly worth while to follow them.

The Platos materials were sold yesterday at auction, and at very fair prices. The amt not yet known

Very Truly Yours

(signed) Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 3^d Novr 1842

Z. Cook Jr Esq

Dear Sir,

Herewith you have J. Rodman's application for \$8000 Insurance on Ship Magnolia and N. Durfee for \$10000 on Ship Holder Borden of Fall River at 5% for the voyage.

The Holder Borden is a fine new Ship, is bound to the N. W. Coast, and is fitted for thirty months. I would have preferred taking her at 3% for 18 months and pro rata, but one of our office have taken her at 5% for the voyage and I was obliged to do the same or lose the risk. It is about an even chance, whether she will perform the voyage within thirty months, or overrun that time.

Enclosed is Chapman & Barneys Prem. Note no. 12433.

Respy. y. o. l. s. (signed) Wm. J. Russell

P.S. Mr Luscomb's Policy, Ship Copia, and Mr Rodman's
on Ship Margaret Vail, are due to-day but have not
been received —
W. J. R.

New Bedford Nov 3 1842
Capt Calvin C. Adams
Fisbury — Dear Sir,

I wrote you on the 20th
of October, enclosing a premium note on Barque
Pavilion, for you to sign and return to me. Up to the
Present time, the note has not been received, and I
have not heard a word from you. Will you have the
goodness to attend to it immediately and send me
the note without further delay and oblige

Your obt Servt.

(signed) Wm J Russell

New Bedford 4th Nov 1842

2^d Cook Esq

Dear Sir,

Insurance is wanted by Jonathan
an Bourne on Sagoda's Catchings for \$5000, \$2000
for himself, \$2000 for Clement P. Couell, & \$1000 for
O. & E. W. Seabury, from the time she was last heard
from, 15th June 1842 cruising off the N. W. Coast of
New Holland, all well, with 950 bbls whale, & 250
Bbls Sperm Oil, — and until her return to New
Bedford with liberty to sell catchings. Sperm Oil
valued at 70cs, whale oil at \$35cs per gallon, whale
bone at 30cs pr lb, Premiums 2% for the remainder of
the voyage. The amount for each owner as above, to be
specified in the Policy. — The Sagoda will
probably perform her voyage within a year from the
time insured. She is a good Ship, & well appointed.
Your favor of 2^d inst with a package of six Policies, was
received this morning. There will not be time to get
the Premium Notes signed & returned by this mail.
I am very glad to have your statement of the loss

you have actually paid on the Steamer North America,
that I may refute the stories which some of my competi-
tors have circulated, representing the loss to be \$15000
I am gratified with the statement you give of the
Prosperity of your office, and shall take pleasure in
making it known.

I was surprised you should let the Fairhaven
reinsurance slip through your hands, but have
heard no explanation of the circumstances before.

Respectfully your Obedt Servt

(signed) Wm F Russell

New Bedford - 5th Novem. 1842

W. Cook & Esq.

Dear Sir

Herewith I have sent you
six Premium notes, as follows - no. 12462, 12463
12464, 12465, 12466, 12493.

Your favor dated yesterday, with Policies no 12497
& 12498, I have received.

Your orders directing me to never to take another
Wherm voyage at less than 2% per annum, in
future, or Right whale voyages at less than 3%
shall be adhered to.

By this determination you ^{will} ~~actually~~ resign all
your business in New Bedford, and I may say
all whaling risks. The established Premiums ever since
I have had the Agency here has been 2% pa Ann. on
Right as well as Wherm Whalers, indiscriminately.

My general orders from you are, you will recoll-
ect, to insure as low as our offices do here on the
same vessels. I have strictly followed these orders,
I believe, in every instance.

The whaling Premiums are doubtless too low, But since
you have dipped so deep in whaling risks, would it
not be ^{to} your interest to continue to take right whale
risks at 2% per annum.

Most of our whale ships, which have sailed this

Season, were fitted to take Right and Sperm Whales together.
If you confine yourselves to Sperm whalers exclusively, the
business will not be worth seeking after. For our office
and the Sun Newspaper also, will continue to take
Right Whales at 2 1/2 % Per ann.

Very Truly yours

(signed) Wm J Russell

New Bedford 7 November 1842
Mr Nathan Durfee
Fall River
Dear Sir

Herewith I send you Policy on
Ship Holder Borden, and the prem. note which you
will please sign & return to me by first opportunity
and oblige yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 7th Nov. 1842
Messrs E. J. Hastings & Co.
Gent^l

We have sent you 3 Casks
Bleached Fall Oil, today, as Per Invoice annexed.
We have this day drawn on you under date of 9th
Oct. at 6 months after date in favor Samuel Hollock
for \$1041.700 - Also same date in favor of same at eight
months for \$1041.700

For 2957 Galls Crude Sperm Oil

Purchased of S. Hollock at 68cs. 2010.76

7 mos 3 days Interest. 71.37

\$2082.13

B. L. & W. J. Retch have manufactured at our works
the past season 12389 Galls Sperm Oil at \$3 1/4 Per
Bar is \$159.76 your half is \$79.88. They have told me
that one of them would call on you when in Boston and
settle with you about the account.

Nothing new in the Oil market since our last.

Sperm is offered at 65cs. and is tending downwards

How is the Market for Sperm Candles? Do you make any sales in these days? What shall we do with these on hand here? If you cannot sell them in Boston, we had better send them to Phil^a or Baltimore.

Respectfully yours
Signed, Wm E. Russell & Co.

New Bedford 7th Nov. 1842

To Cook Jr Esq

Dear Sir

Herewith you have Prem. Notes

no. 10497812338.

I Hope you will reconsider your orders to me, not to take any more Right Whalers risks under 3% Per annum. If you do not put them on a par with the Sperm Whales, it will be a death blow to your business here. The Sperm & Right Whaling is now so blended together that it is difficult to make a distinction. There have been but very few Ships fitted this Season exclusively for Sperm Whaling. All our offices take Right Whalers freely at 2% Per ann. and in several instances, when the Ships were considered Superior, the Holder Borden for instance, they have been taken at 5% for the voyage. But I would not recommend taking them at that rate.

Very Truly yours

Signed Wm E. Russell

New Bedford 9th Nov. 1842

To Cook Jr Esq-

Dear Sir

I have at last obtained Calvin C. Adams prem. note no. 11900 which is enclosed. Your favor of 7th inst was duly recd. You express surprise that our companies write right whale risks at 2% & that they have done so for a long time. The Premiums have been 2% Per annum on the right whales, as well as the Sperm whales, ever since I have had the agency of your office —

The first risk which I took was 23rd Sept. 1841. on Ship
Hope, at 5% for thirty months. When the Ships are
fitted for two years, and there is a strong Probability
of their performing their voyage in 18 months, we write
them at 3% for 18 mos. & pro rata. In one instance
the Agent of the Lun Mutual offered to write a Ship
at 2% for 12 months & Pro. Rate, when it was known
that the Ship was fitted for upwards of 2 years voyage
and could not possibly perform the voyage in less
than 18 months. The Preference was given to me warranting 3% Premium.

When you was in New Bedford last Summer,
you understood that the Premiums on Right
Whalers were 2% Per ann. And if you tax your
memory with it, I have no doubt you will re-
collect it.

I shall avail myself of the liberty you have
given me, to conform to the rates of Premium here,
and continue to take risks as usual.

Very Truly Yours

(signed) Wm E. Russell

New Bedford 10 Nov. 1842

Messrs E. T. Hastings & Co
Gent^{rs}

We have your favor of 7th
Inst. and have sent as you requested per Rail
Road today, 10 Bbl Bleached Paint and 4 Casks
Tall Oil. as Pr. Invoice annexed.

We sent you 3 Casks bleached Tall oil on
the 7th which we conclude is sufficient for the
Present. No movement in Sperm Oil since our
last.

Respectfully yours

(signed) Wm E. Russell & Co

New Bedford 10 Novem. 1842

Y^{rs} Cook Esq.

Dear Sir

Herewith is an application for Insurance for James Arnold - on Ship Barclay for \$26,000 on Ship, Outfits and Oil, which is the amount I am limited to take on any one Risk.

The Barclay is a good, Substantial Ship, and is considered as good a risk as any of our Whale Ships. She has been at Sea up to the Present time, nearly 28 months, and may be expected to arrive every day - $1\frac{1}{4}\%$ is $7\frac{1}{2}$ months Premium, which from the time she was last heard from, 30th May 1842, will reach the middle of December. I have no doubt She will arrive within that time. She is a small Ship, her capacity about \$2000 bbls.

Mr Arnold is the sole owner of the Barclay, and has no other Insurance on her, and does not, he says, intend to get any more, although not near covered.

I saw this Particular in my description, on account of the large amt. taken

Respectfully your Obedt. Servt.

(Signed) Wm F. Russell

P.S. to E. J. Hastings & Co's letter 10th Nov. 1842. (Proceeding Page)
Since writing the above we have your favor of yesterday's date. The Oil and Candles shall be forwarded tomorrow as you requested. We have no tapers on hand. If you can buy them cheap, you had better send us some. There is no call for Sperm Candles here, We have sold only a few by the single Box.

Yours &c.
(Signed) M. F. Russell

New Bedford 11. Nov. 1842
Messrs E J Hastings & Co
Gentle

Annexed is Invoice 30
Boxes Sperm Candles and 7 Casks Bleached
Winter Oil, forwarded today Per Rail Road.
The 10 Bbls Bleached Winter & 4 Hhd Fall Oil, In-
voice of which I sent you yesterday, did not go for-
ward, owing to the misunderstanding of the truck-
men, but will be forwarded today.

Respectfully yours—

Wm J. Russell & Co.

L. Cook Jr Esq
Dear Sir

New Bedford 12 Nov. 1842

Enclosed is James Arnold's
prem. note no 12603—

Although you think I have taken
the Barclay at a shade too low—either of our officers
here, would readily have taken the risk at the
same rate—The preference being given to me—

Very truly yours,
Wm J. Russell

L. Cook Jr Esq
Sir

New Bedford 14 Nov 1842

Herewith you have Nathan
Durfee's prem. note no 12498—The last one there
is behind—

Very truly &c
W J. Russell

New Bedford 15th Nov. 1842

Messrs E. I. Hastings & Co.

Gentl.

We have rec^d your favor of yesterday's date. In regard to the gauge of 1 Barrel, we have to state. That to save expense and trouble, of looking up a gauger, we have gauged them ourselves with a rod. It is not always so true as a Gunter's Scale, but we have considered it sufficiently accurate and have believed our gauges would be more likely to fall short than overrun. In future we think it will be best to employ a professed gauger.

We regret that you are likely to lose a customer by sending him a cask of poor oil. We are aware that our first straining, did not make so good oil as we would wish. The weather in October was so mild, that it was impossible to make first rate Oil, and you were urging us to forward Oil as soon as possible, and we did the best we could at the time. But you can assure your customers that it is pure Sperm Oil, and that it is nothing more than the fine particles of Sperm in it, which obstructs its burning, in cool weather. and this is the case with all Fall or Spring Oil more or less, when the temperature is below 30.

As to the color, we knew it was not so light as some, but fair, and the crude from which it was made, was the best lot we could buy at the time, at the price we paid. In purchasing Crude Oil, we would not sacrifice all to color, but have some reference to its richness.

We omitted to say, that we have always taken the old gauges on the Reeds, and it is very unusual for them to overrun, but almost always fall short, when they are re-gauged.

Respy. Yours
Wm I Russell & Co.

New Bedford 23 Nov. 1842

E J Hastings Esq.

Annexed is Invoice 4 casks Bleached
Winter & 4 casks bleached Fall Oil, forwarded by Rail
Road today, agreeable to your order of 19th inst -

Your favor of 22 ordering 800 gs Fall Oil is
received & the Oil shall be sent tomorrow - &c &c

New Bedford Nov 24 1842

Annexed you have Invoice 6 casks Fall
Strained Oil Forwarded by Rail Road today.

Respy yrs.

Wm J Russell Esq.

New Bedford 24 Nov 1842

To Messrs E J Hastings &c.

Boston.

New Bedford 26 Nov. 1842

Y. Cooke Jr Esq.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of 23rd Inst was duly received - I called on Mr Perry as you requested for a statement of his claim on the underwriters for loss of Baugue Plato, and the amount of the several interests insured and all the papers in the case - Instead of Producing such documents, he has this moment handed me the enclosed note offering to leave the whole settlement of the loss to Mr. Tyler of Boston. Mr Perry insists that the Captains account of the cargo taken at Sea as it was stowed down (being 1750 bbls) gives the quantity to be paid for by the underwriters. Mr Bartlett's account is more to be relied upon, for every cask was saved from the wreck, empty as well as full, and he makes the whole cargo, allowing every empty cask which had had oil in it, to have been full, about 1500.

Mr Perry is an obstinate and very ignorant man, and I fear there will be difficulty with him in adjusting his claim. If he will consent for Mr. Bartlett to go before Mr. Tyler, with all the documents, and state the case himself, perhaps it would be as well for you.

Enclosed is an application for insurance on Spinn Oil to London from hence via New York. In naming this Prem. I called $\frac{1}{2}\%$ to New York, from thence to London $\frac{1}{4}\%$. Let me know if it meets your approbation. There may be other similar applications.

Also is enclosed Barton Kirkesson's Prem note No. ~~12660~~ 12670

Respectfully yr. Obedt Servt.

(signed) Wm J Russell

New Bedford 26 Nov. 1842
Messrs. Grinnell, Minturn & Co.
Gentle

Your favor of yesterday's date I have ~~received~~ ^{received} authorizing me to purchase 1000 bbls of crude Sperm Oil at \$60½ cts per Gallon.

I have this moment closed the bargain with Mr. Jones for the Hope's cargo, excepting a small share which one of the Owners will not sell at 60 cts per gall. Payable in 13 days from 28th inst. and shall draw on you at the expiration of that time at sight; by so doing the exchange will be saved. There will be about 400 bbls. I have stipulated that the casks shall be refilled and two gallons Pumped off.

This cargo I believe has all the good qualities you require. I think I shall be able to complete your order at 60 cts. and on the time you name. The only difficulty I apprehend, is in finding Oil that must have so many good qualities

Truly much haste
I am very respectfully yours
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 28 Nov. 1842
Grinnell Minturn & Co.
Gentle

I write you on the 26th inst. advising you of having purchased about 400 bbls Sperm Oil of Mr. Jones' cargo at 60 cts. I have the offer today of 600 bbls at 60 cts payable by draft on New York at 60 dts & 4 mos. int added.

This is said to be a very beautiful lot. But this being election day all business is suspended & I shall not be able to examine it until tomorrow.

I can get the Oil taken to N York at 17 cts per bbl —

Respectfully yours
Wm. J. Russell

Lth Cook Jr Esq

New Bedford 29th Nov 1842

Dear Sir,

Your favor of 28th inst with Policy no 12768 is at hand.

Mr Perry has consented for Mr Bartlett to proceed to Boston with all the documents relative to Barque Plato, and to lay them before Mr Tyler, for adjustment, subject to your approval.

I am collecting the Prem. notes due as fast as I can, and shall make you a remittance in a few days.

I have had some conversation with Mr Howland secy. of the Whaling Co. relative to the loss of Ship Orbit, without letting him know that you had received any information. He showed me a letter received from the Consul at Payta; which I believe is an exact copy of the one sent you. Mr Howland and the directors of that company are of opinion, that if the fact can be established, that the whole watch was asleep when the Ship went ashore, that the owners have no claim on the Underwriters, and that they shall refuse Payment of the Loss.

Some of the officers of the Orbit may be expected home daily. We shall be on the lookout for their arrival, and get all the information we can from them, before they see the owners of the Ship.

Possibly some of them may arrive in a Merchant Ship in New York. If so, it would be well to see them before they leave the City.

Enclosed is Lem. Hollock's Prem note no. 12768

Respectfully Your Obedt Servt.

Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 29 Nov. 1842
Messrs Grinnell, Muntz & Co.

Gent^{le}

I have this morning purchased of T & A. B. Nye, 600 Bbls of Sperm oil, of Ship Lancaster's cargo, at 60c per gall. payable by draft on you at two and four months. I conclude that you will prefer these payments to dividing them into three - making the first payment by draft in five days. This purchase completes your order for 1,000 Bbls. I have engaged the Sch. Atalanta to take the whole, under and on deck at 17c per Bbl. She will commence loading tomorrow, and will have all on board and ready to sail the last of this week. The Atalanta is a first rate vessel, and can be insured here as low as the Cornelius. The Packets have combined together, since the late cold weather, to charge one cent per gallon.

The oil is to be filled, and pumped off according to the size of the casks, and evaporated. There will be the charges of cartage and wharfage on the last lot - the first lot lies on the wharf, and is not subject to those charges -

Respectfully Yours

(sign) Wm F Russell

New Bedford 2 Decemb. 1842
Messrs E J Hastings & Co
Annexed you have Invoice 10 Bbls
Blch's Winter Oil forwarded by Rail Road today

(sign) Wm F Russell & Co.

New Bedford 1st Dec 1842

Messrs E J Hastings & Co.
Gentle

We have your favor of yesterday's date, ordering 112 Boxes Candles. They will go to-day by Rail Road - Invoice Annexed.
Respy. Yours.

(Signed) Wm J Russell & Co.

New Bedford 1st Dec 1842

~~L Cook Esq.~~

Grinnell Minton & Co.

Gentle

I wrote you by last mail that I had completed the purchase of 1000 Bbls crude Sperm Oil for your account, and had engaged the Sch. Atlanta - a first rate vessel to take it to New York at 17 1/2 per bbl. She has commenced loading, but the storm yesterday has caused some delay. But she will probably have all on board by tomorrow night and ready to sail the first fair wind after.

I cannot make out an invoice of the Oil to forward to you, ^{by} today's Mail, but will forward it by next mail. Annexed is a statement of the number of gallons to govern you in effecting insurance.

I feel confident the quality of the oil will suit you. I should be entirely satisfied with it for the purpose of manufacturing

Respectfully yrs.

Wm J. Russell

Dec 1. 1842 - Wrote to T. Cook Jr. Pres. Mut. Safety Insur Co. New York, by request of Saml Rodman. to enquire whether the crews shares of the cargo of Barque Margaret Rait of St Johns N.B. may be included in the Policy or her cargo for \$20,000 for Act of Charles C Stewart - and note made as the policy to that effect -

Also enquiring whether Capt Thos Bennetts policies on Barque Rajah have been transferred to any other person -

New Bedford 1st Dec. 1842

Messrs Grinnell, Minturn & Co. (Thursday Evening)
Gentl.

I am desired by Mr Rodney French to enquire of you, whether 15 bbls of Spumtail can be taken in the Sunday Packet to sail on the 10th inst. If it cannot go by that packet, whether the Packet of the 20th can take it - and whether it can be taken immediately on board the packet on arrival, if it must wait for the Packet of the 20th and without being subject to any charge.

I neglected to say this morning that a part of your oil on board Pehr Alalanta will be on deck. I could not get any vessel to take ^{the whole} it under deck at 17^{cts}.

Respectfully yr.

Wm J Russell

New Bedford 3rd Dec. 1842

Herewith you have an application for Insurance on catchings on board Ship Messenger - and also on the New Ship Joseph Meigs of Narragansett

Yours Obedt Servt

Wm J Russell

To T Cook Esq Pres Mut. Safety Ins. Co.

New York

New Bedford 3rd Dec. 1842

Messrs Grinnell, Manton & Co.

Gentle

Herewith you have invoice and bill of Lading of 244 Casks of Crude Sperm oil, Shipped per Sch. Atalanta, for your account and risk. Also my account showing the drafts I have drawn on you for Sperm oil purchased for your account.

The Atalanta will be loaded this afternoon, and ready to sail the first fair wind. A considerable part of the cargo will be on deck. You will therefore govern yourselves in Insurance accordingly. She is a good substantial vessel, and can be insured here as low as any of the Packets.

Trust the Oil will suit you. I am very sure there is no Whale oil among it. Neither the Hope nor the Lancaster brought in any whale oil.

The drafts were divided in small sums to suit the convenience of the Messrs Nyes.

Respectfully Yours
(signed) Wm F. Russell

New Bedford 5th Dec. 1842

Messrs E. T. Hastings & Co.

Gentle

Annexed is invoice 113 Boxes Sperm Candles forwarded by Rail Road to-day; being the balance of the Stock manufactured.

We sent a bbl. of Bleached Tinted Oil last Friday to Boston for Gov. Davis. We have since been informed, that he did not want bleached oil. We therefore wish to take it back and send him another 1 bbl. The 1 bbl. we understand remains at the Depot in Boston. We have directed Col. Hatch to send it to your store, and shall forward a bbl. of unbleached to the Gov.

Respectfully Yours
(signed) Wm F. Russell & Co.

New Bedford 6 Dec. 1842.
Messrs. Grinnell Manton & Co.
Gentn

There was a sale of 300 bbls
crude Sperm Oil sold yesterday at 58 cts per gallon
on time with interest, of Ship Franklin's cargo - A
Right Whaler - lately arrived - And was all the
Sperm Oil she brought in - The Oil said to be of
good quality -

I am inclined to believe that some lots
may be bought a few days hence at 55 cts for money

At the time I purchased for you 62 cts
was the asking price - A small lot had been sold
at 60 cts for money - but none under that price -

The Schr. Atalanta sailed this morning
with a fair wind & moderate weather -

Respectfully Yours
Wm J Russell

New Bedford Dec 7. 1842
Messrs E F Hastings & Co.
Gent.

~~Respectfully~~ you have Invoice
The winter Oil which you ordered on the 5th inst
will be forwarded per Rail Road today - Invoice
of which is annexed

Respy. Yours
(signed) Wm J Russell & Co.

New Bedford 7th Dec 1842

Messrs Grinnell Manton & Co.

Gentn } Your favor of 5th inst I have recd. The charge of
wharfage and Truckage on the whole Invoice of Oil is wrong
as you observe. The young man made the mistaken un-
derstanding out the invoice and I soon looked it. It is now
rectified making the chgs of 227.55 which added to bill
of oil purchased of Owen Barge Hope makes \$9968.45
Truck and amt recd \$9968.45 I have drawn on you for
under this date payable the 11th inst in favor Wm Mather
agent for O' Barge Hope being for Bal^{ce} of the Invoice
nothing new today in the Oil market
(signed) Respy. yrs Wm J Russell

New Bedford 8 Dec 1842

L. Cook Jr Esq

Dear Sir,

Your favor of 5th inst was rec^d this morning. with Policies no 12852 & 12853. and Mr Hollocks Note to be exchanged. The premium notes I cannot get signed in time to forward by this mail.

I have heard of no Insurance as low as 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ for the voyage on sperm whales. Some Right Whales, fitted for 3 mos. with some probability of performing the voyage in two years have been taken at 5 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Enclosed are three applications for small amounts from C. W. Morgan. The one on the Cander is too small, but I thought best to take it in connection with the others to oblige Mr Morgan. It will be a cash Premium.

Was the Jefferson of Nantucket insured at your office?

Yours Obedt Servt.

(signed) Wm J Russell

New Bedford 10th December. 1842

L. Cook Jr Esq

Dear Sir,

Above you have a check on the Fulton Bank for \$150. being for Geo. S. Parker's Prem note 11676 for \$158.75 and Lem. Hollocks 10081 for \$21.25. The other notes due I continue to have the promise of in a few days, and will remit them as soon as received.

Herewith you have an application for Insurance on Brig Thomas Winslow & Ship Fenelon.

Your favor of 9th Inst is at hand, enclosing Policies for Mr Morgan.

Mr Tyler's Statement of the loss on the Plato will be forwarded by this mail. Your share is under \$1800.

Also you have herewith Prem notes 12852 & 12768. The latter, Mr Hollocks, has been exchanged as you desired.

(signed) Yours Obedt Servt. Wm J Russell

Please forward for collection Prem notes no. 11771 & 11929 - which
are about due

W. T. R.

Since writing the above I have been enabled to send you
Prem notes no. 12803

W. T. R.

New Bedford 13 Decr 1842

W. Cook Jr Esq -

Dear Sir,

Herewith you have two applica-
tions for Insurance on the new Ship Caroline -
commanded by Capt. Mc. Kenzie - formerly Secretary
of the Merch. Ins. Company, amounting together to
\$25,500. you will observe liberty is granted not only to
self catchings, but to take home the catchings of other
Ships on freight. This liberty has been granted by the New-
Bedford Office, lately, when asked for, on account of a ques-
tion having arisen a few months ago, on the arrival of
a Whale Ship here, that had put into the Port of Tat-
cavanna, on her homeward passage to recruit, and not
being full took 500 bbl Oil on freight, vitiated the Pol-
icy. It is hardly probable they will have occasion to
use this liberty. But the Owners of the Caroline insur-
ted upon having it inserted in the Policy. Either of the
Office here would be glad to take the risk on the same
terms. The preference being given to your company -
Enclosed are Prem. notes no. 12901 - 12902 and 12949

Respectfully Your Obt Servt.

(signed) Wm. T. Russell

New Bedford 17th Dec. 1842

L. Cook Jr Esq.

Dear Sir

I have your favor of yesterday's date with the Policies in the Caroline. Enclosed is Prem. note in the Caroline no 13031. The other I cannot obtain today.

I have not been able to make further collections on Prem. notes as yet. It is very hard times for money here. But the notes are all good and the money will be forthcoming before long.

The Plato's case shall be looked into immediately. It was impossible to do any thing about before the mail closes today

Yours Obedt. servt.

(sgn) Wm T Russell

New Bedford Dec 20 1842

L. Cook Jr Esq

Dear Sir

Herewith you have P. G. Seabury's prem. note no 13032. And an application for insurance from Dart Wood on Ship Cambria for \$1625 -

The papers relative to the loss on Ship Cambria Bogue Plato have been put into the hands of Mr Merri-her for adjustment. His statement will not be ready in time to forward to you by this mail -

Respectfully y^r obt. servt.

Wm T Russell

Statement of Loss on Barque Plato

Danl Perry Owns $\frac{1}{32}$.. Has Insured on Ship and Outfits at a valuation of \$1,000 Each, making \$20,000 at the Following Offices viz:

Fairhaven Office - - - - -	625.
Bedford Caml. Office - - - - -	6250.
$\frac{1}{32}$ of 20,000	<u>\$6875.</u>

Insured with the Mutual Safety Insurance Company as follows: \$2400. on vessel & Outfits valued at \$11,000 & \$22,000 - and \$5000. on Catchings

Sum insured on vessel & Outfits	2400.
Insurable interest $\frac{1}{32}$ of 2000.	<u>687.50</u>
Over insured on Vessel & Outfits - - - - -	\$1712.50
Sum insured on Catchings	5000.
Insurable interest	<u>3870.75</u>
Over-insured on vessel, Outfits, & Catchings. - - -	<u>\$2841.75</u>

Insurable interest on Vessel, ⁴ Outfits and Catchings -	687.50
Salvage of Vessel.	975.46
Ditto of Outfits	<u>4654.97</u>
	<u>\$5630.43</u>

\$22,000: 5630.43: 687.50: - - - - -	175.95
	<u>\$591.33</u>

Insurable interest on Catchings	3870.75
Net Salvage on same amt.	<u>2978.60</u>
	897.15
	<u>1408.70</u>

Over Insured on Vessel, Outfits, & Catchings, \$2841.75	
Premium Note	149.25
Return Premium on 2841.75 at 2%.	<u>56.83</u>
Due from the Mutual Safety Ins. Co.	<u>\$1316.28</u>

New Bedford 22 Dec 1842

J. Cook Jr Esq
Dear Sir

Enclosed is a statement of the loss on Barque Plato showing the sum of \$1316.28/100 due Mr Perry from your Office - The Statement has been submitted to Mr Perry & is satisfactory to him
over

I would suggest that the best way to make the remittance will be by a Bank check on Boston -

Mr Piny will wait an order from you on Mr Battelle for his share of Salvage - as the proceeds of the Sals of the cargo remain in Mr Battelle's hands -

Respectfully yr obt servt
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 24 Dec. 1842

Mr Wm Coggeshall
Fau River

Limit take \$19,000 on Ship Pangama
From Fayal to Pacific Ocean & Elsewhere and
Back to Fau River at 3% for 18 mos & Pro Rata for
a longer time

Respectfully your Obedt Servt

(signed) Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 27 Dec 1842
Messrs Grinnell, Minton, & Co.

Gent^{rs}

I have ascertained that I can procure the 30 cedar logs of the dimensions you name suitable for boat boards at \$16 per cord, by measure, as the woodmen here call it. That is, 100 feet to the cord. A log measuring 30 feet in length and 15 inches in diameter, will contain 31 1/2 feet, which at \$16 is \$51. The price of Boat boards is \$25. to \$30. per ch. The price has been gradually advancing for several years past, formerly they were \$16. per M.

The logs can be delivered in one week after giving notice. If you conclude to take them, I will purchase them and ship them on to you with pleasure -

Very Truly Yours
(signed) Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 27 Decr 1842
Messrs E I Hastings & Co
Gentl.

We have forwarded the Rail Road today,
the Balance of the Bleached Winter Oil you ordered in your
letter of 23 inst - except a small allage - see Invoice
annexed.

The Taught Prep oil, as well as the Head matter, has
been boiled over, for some weeks, and we propose beginning
to press it next week - Our Winter Oil is not very light
colored, and had better be bleached. We shall want more
Potash, and will thank you to send us two barrels by the
first Packet -

We are Respectfully Yours -
(signed) Wm T Russell & Co.

New Bedford 29 Decr 1842 -
To Capt Esq -

Dear Sir -

Herewith you have Prom note no 13077 -
Also an application for Insurance from Asiah J. Bonney on
Hoop Chest on Board Ship Mary Ann for \$800.

I shall send you a Schedule of the Vessels I have Insured
for you by next mail.

Respectfully
Yours
(signed) Wm T Russell

New Bedford 31 Dec 1842

2 Cooks Esq.

Dear Sir

Here with you have a schedule of Marine Risk taken by me up to the present time for use of Mutual Safety Ins Co.

Also my ac^t showing a Balance due me \$3867.00 You will observe I have assumed all the notes sent to me for collection, several of which remain unpaid, But I believe them to be good, and have no doubt they will be paid very shortly.

I have charged $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ Commission on all the risks except on two Policies on oil to London which is charged $2\frac{1}{2}\%$, which is the compensation allowed by you as I understand it. But if it is not right, you will please make it so. I think it ought to be $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ per. For all the risks.

A Policy issued from your office no 12236 on Bottoming Cluterson Ship Enterprise of Vantasket has been Transferred to a person in this Place, who now holds the Bottoming Bond. He wishes to know whether it is necessary to have your sanction to this transfer, and whether it must be endorsed on the Policy

Respy Yours
(sign) Wm J Russell

New Bedford 3 Jan 1843

Messrs Grennell Minton & Co

Yours favor of 29 ulto. I have Recd. The 30 Cedar logs I have engaged, at \$16.00 per cord, to be delivered on the Wharf in about a week;— and will forward them to you with as little delay as possible.

Very Truly Yours
(sign) Wm J Russell

There Have been some small sales of Crude Spum oil within a few days at 32c

New Bedford 3^o Jan'y 1843

J. Cook Esq

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is an application for insurance on Ship Canada & Outfits for \$18.000. This is the same Old Ship Canada, formerly a Liverpool Packet from New York. She was brought here last September, and repaired as follows. All the Ceiling in the Lower hold taken out, & about 50 defections putbacks replaced with new of white oak. All the streaks from the waist to the Plank shears stripped off which laid all the top timbers bare, which were all remarkably sound. She had new Plank shears and waterways, & new Butwarks all round. New Fore & Main & new bowsprit, & new Main rigging. Every seam caulked, her bottom chiselled, sheathed, & coppered. I was on board of her several times while she was repairing, and can say she was repaired in a very thorough manner and I consider her as good a risk as any other who lies out of the Port. The Commercial & Whaling offices have the same amt. on her that I have taken. The Stockholders of the Mchchs. & Mechanics Insurance Companies, voted yesterday to wind up their offices, with a view of establishing a Mutual Office, and have stopped taking any more risks. In the amt. which I sent you, I omitted Postage, \$13 ⁷/₁₀₀, which please add to the amt. I have nothing from you by to day's mail, Mr Bounneys O'Key is yet behind

Respectfully Yrs O^bl Serv^t
(signed) Wm J Russell

New Bedford 4th Jan'y 1843

Mr Thos W Mayhew

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is your Policy on
Brig Thomas Winslow, which I have had for some
time, expecting you would be in town. I call for its
the Prem. note, which you will find enclosed in the
Policy, you will please sign and send it to me by the
first opportunity

Respectfully Yours

(signed) Wm T Russell

New Bedford 5 Jan'y 1843

Messrs E T Hastings & Co

Gentle

We have your Favor of 28th Dec.
& 4th Inst: The latter ordering 500 Gals Bleed Winter
Oil. We shall forward today By Rail Road 304 Gals
as per Invoice, which is all we have Bleed, and are
waiting for the Potash before we can bleach more. Our
Clerk says he took the top of the last oil sent you in
the cellar, where it was dark and he thinks he might
have made a mistake in the Gauge, the wants are
right - there being $\frac{1}{2}$ Gall out of the smallest Cask.
We don't see that our gauges will ever agree with
yours. When you sell Oil by the Cask you had better
have them regauged there.

The oil Casks have arrived. There is no demand for
them at Present, there being no Whaling vessels fitting.
We shall commence pressing Winter Oil next Monday.
and we believe it will be best, as you suggest to make
most of the Fall oil into Winter.

You say you have sold all the Sperm Candles
but do not name the Price.

There have been two small parcels of Crude Sperm
sold, within a few days, at 53 & 54¢ short time with
interest added. We believe it may be Bought at
50¢ money - although there have been no sales here at
less than 32¢

We are Respy. Yours Wm. T Russell & Co
(signed)

New Bedford 5 Jan 1843

Lebedee Cook & Co
New York
Dear Sir

I have your favor of 31st to
& 3rd & 4th insts, with the Policies.

I want to be understood, that we have the same
prem. on the Canada, that the New Bedford Offices
have -

Enclosed is an application for insurance, from
J B Richmond on catchings on board Ship India -
Also from Jas Rider for catchings on board Ship
Orozimbo, Both Ships were full bawled home & are
daily expected -

Also is enclosed prem. notes no 13181 & 13221.

Very truly yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 7 Jan. 1843

Lebedee Cook & Co
New York
Dear Sir

Enclosed you have an appli-
cation from Dart Wood for insurance on catchings
on board Ship L C Richmond - Also from Abm
Backus on catchings on board Ship Orozimbo -

One of our officers have taken the N W Whaler
from last Feby, then bound to the N W coast to
obtain cargoes at 13/4 % for the remainder of the voyage.
The India & Orozimbo were of this number - They have
since been on the N W coast, filled up & were at the
Sandwich Islands in Sept recruiting for their passage
home - The Underwriters have already earned their
13/4 % & will insure the Ships from this time home for
nothing - I had similar offers but declined taking
them - We have no New York Mail today on
op of the thick weather -

Very truly yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 10 Jan'y 1843

J Cook jr Esq.

New York

Dear Sir,

Your favors of 27th & 9th inst
enclosing Policies 13266 & 13267, 13281 & 13282,
came to hand this morning -

Enclosed is an application for insurance by
Wathaway & Snee on Spum oil from here to New Orleans.
Also by Buttz Smith on Ship Moctesuma's Catch-
ings - \$3000. The Moctesuma was bound on a cruise
from the Sandwich Islands and is not expected
home before the latter part of next summer - say
from 9 to 12 mos from last September

The Agent here of the New Mutual has taken Ship
Braganza, from the Sandwich Islands home,
at 1%, under the same circumstances, that I
have taken the India & Croimbo, for which I
have 1 1/4%. I did not think it best to take these
risks at less than 1 1/4%.

Enclosed are Prem. notes n. 12948, 13266, & 13282.

There has been some delay in forwarding n. 12948,
the insured not living in town.

Ship Lima of Nantucket is reported at Rio de
Janeiro, in distress, loss of Masts, &c. would proba-
bly be condemned. Is she insured at your office?

Respectfully Yours

(Signed) Wm T Russell

New Bedford 10th Jan^y 1843
Messrs Henry Garrett & Co
Buffalo,
Gent^l. Your letter of 30th ult.,
I have Rec^d.

In regard to your claim against
Mr Doubbridge, a sailor in Ship Cicely, I have
made enquiry of the Agent of that ship, and learn
from him, that on account of his extravagant
outfit, for the voyage, and advances made by
the Captain during the voyage, for slops, that
he and his brother were in debt to the Owners of
that ship, on her arrival, about \$160, which
their Father Paid for them. There is therefore
no chance of your recovering any thing here.

The agent is a very respectable man, and I
place entire reliance upon his statement—

I am respectfully Your obt. serv^t

(signed) Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 10th Jan^y. 1843

Messrs E J Hastings & Co
Gent^l.

We forwarded today per Rail
Road 6 Casks Bleached Tallow, as per Invoice ann-
exed, being all we have on hand except two Casks
reserved for customers here.

We commenced pressing Head-matter last Mon-
day, but the weather continues so mild, that we
were obliged to give it up. We have made only
one pressing, and the quality of that has not suited us.

We shall send you the balance of the old stock
of Winter oil, as soon as it can be bleached. But
it is slow work bleaching in the Black Kettle.

We are Resp^y. Yours

(signed) Wm J Russell & Co

New Bedford 12 Jan'y. 1843

Leb. Cook Jr
New York
Dr Sir

I have your favor of 11th inst. with
Policies n^o 13301 & 13302 -

Enclosed is an application for insurance on
catchings on board Ship L. C. Richmond for \$1450
by H. Sullings -

Also an enclosed the following prem. notes
n^o 13281-13301-13302 -

Prem note n^o 13267 is still behind, the insured
being out of town -

There will be a share for you to insure the
unexpired risks of the Merchants & Mechanics com-
panies of this town, they having wound up their business
The former has about \$1500.000 the latter about \$2000.000
to reinsure - I have the promise of their Schedules as soon
as they are made out & will forward them to you -

As soon as convenient, have the goodness to remit
the balance of my A/c, so as to close up last year work
A Bank check or Boston w^d be the best way to remit -

Your obt. serv^t.

Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 13th Jan'y. 1843

Messrs E. J. Hastings & Co.
Gentlⁿ

We have your favor of 12th Inst. We shall not be able to send you the Bleaches Winter Oil before Tuesday. There will be about 10 Bbls of it, which will be the Balance of the Ota stock.

As the Weather has turned, it would have been better to have pressed our head Matter before. But at no time has it been sufficiently frozen to make first rate Winter oil. We have had some very cold days, but they have lasted only 2 or 3 days at a time, before we had a thaw. We have not had more than two inches of snow at a time; when you were having snow storms, it has rained here.

It will be best to press our head matter little at a time as you may want it, and make the best oil we can of it.

We are making Saught Dress candles. There will be about 35 Boxes. They will be of good quality of the sort. If you can find a purchaser at 13 cts per lb. you had better sell them. They will be ready to forward next week.

Once again last there has been ~~about~~ a sale of about 800 Bbls Crude Spinn Oil for New York &c at 53 cts money down. the Holders have been a little more stiff lately, and now ask 55 cts.

There is now doubt they will have to recede again.

We are Respectfully yours &c.

(Signed) W. Russell & Co.

New Bedford 14 Jan'y. 1843

Zeb. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Syr

Your favor of 13 inst is at hand -
enclosing check on Boston for \$349.94/100, for the
balance of my A/c up to the first of this year -
Also enclosing policy n^o 13327 -

Herewith you have an application from
Capt Bennett for insurance on catchings on board a
Barge Alto for \$500 -

Respectfully yr obt. Servt.
Wm T. Russell

New Bedford 16 Jan'y 1843 -

Daniel Wells Alvord Esq -
Greenfield, Mass.
Dear Sir,

Your letter of 8th Inst.
directed to Messrs B. & W. P. Patch, requesting them
to send you two half Bbls Blch's Winter Oil, they
have transferred to me, to fulfil your order, they
having relinquished the manufacture of oil.

I have accordingly forwarded by Rail Road to
Boston today, two Kegs of first quality Blch's
Winter Oil, marked with your name on cards
nailed to the Heads - and have written to R. B.
Callender & Co to take charge of them, & keep them
until you send for them. The Bill is annexed.

The oil will probably be some chitted - exposed
to the cold as it must be on the way. But you
must not condemn it on that account; It
will soon become limpid, kept in a cellar.

Should you, or any of your friends, whom you may
recommend, want oil at any time, I shall be happy
to supply them. You may be sure of a good article
and at reasonable prices.

Respectfully yr Obt Servt.

(signed) Wm T. Russell

New Bedford 16 Jan'y — 1843
Messrs R B Callender & Co
Boston.

Gentl. I have forwarded
by Rail Road today, 2 Kegs Bleached Whiter
oil, for David Wells Esq. of Greenfield.
Maz. marked with his name and a card mailed
to the Heads. At his request I write to you,
to request you will have the goodness to send
~~it~~ to the Depot for them, and keep them until
he sends for them.

Respy. yours
(sign) Wm J Russell & Co.

New Bedford 16 Jan'y 1843
Messrs E T Hastings & Co

Gentl. Annexed you have
Invoice 3 Casks Bleach Whiter oil Forwarded
by R. Road today. This completes the Balance
of the old stock of Whiter oil. We shall press
the Head matter of stock no two, as you may
want it. Please let us know how soon you
will want more. We cannot believe the rise of
crude Sperm oil Permanent. The holders today
pretend to ask 60 c.

We are Respy. Yours —
(sign) Wm J Russell & Co

New Bedford 17th Aug 1843
Messrs E. T. Hastings & Co
Gentn.

We have your favor of 16th inst
and have sent you per Rail Road today the Balance of
the Sperm Candles on hand - 6 Boxes - as you requested -
Invoice is annexed -

The Taught press Candles we shall forward
tomorrow.

Respectfully yours
(signed) Wm. J. Russell & Co

New Bedford 17th Jan'y. 1843

Deb. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Your favor of 16th inst. with
Policy n^o 13344 is at hand -

Enclosed is an application for insurance on
Ship Panama of Fall River \$14,000 on Ship & contents

I am at a loss to determine whether it is the settled
policy of the Sun Office to cut under their premiums, or
whether it is a want of judgment in their agent -

The Sun Office with a capital of about \$100,000
have authorized their agent here to take \$20,000. on
one risk. I am limited to \$26,000, would it not be
well to extend the limit to \$30,000 on a first rate
Ship or even more than that, with your large capital,

Herewith you have prem. note n^o 13327 -

Your obt. servt.
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 18th Jan'y 1843
Messrs E. T. Hartings & Co

Gentl.

Herewith you have Invoice
of 32 Boxes Tapered Press Candles, Forwarded by Rail
Road today. We have just received your favor
of 17th Inst. But have not had time to reply to
it by this mail.

Respy. yours

(Signed) Wm T Russell & Co

Wm Caggehan Esq. Tan River

The Enclaved is a Policy on
ship Panama from the Mutual Safety Ins Co
of New York for \$14,000 on Vessel & Cargo
Respectfully yr.

New Bedford 19th Jan'y 1843 (Signed) Wm T. Russell

New Bedford 19th Jan'y. 1843

Lebedev Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear

I have your favor of 18th inst.

& policy 13.376 -

Miss Hathaway & her son have applied
to me for insurance on Sch^r Wm Russell for 6 months from
the 1st of this mo. She was then at Charleston S. C
bound to Matanzas would probably return to Charle-
ston & be employed in coasting the remainder of the
time. Not having taken any risks of this descrip-
tion, I did not like to set a prem. without consulting
you. The premiums on coasters here vary from 9 to
12% per annum. according to the trade they are in -
Five per cent for 6 mos w^d be called a fair premium
here on the Wm Russell - May I take her at that rate -
Sum warranted insured \$1500 - vessel valued at \$3600
I have in some instances lost a thin insurance by declining
coasters, not being authorized to take them - I would
authorously recommend, your authorizing me to take

some of our best coasting risks -

Enclosed is a Copy of the deposition of the
Sic Mate of Ship Orbit of Nantucket, which the
Owner of that Ship presented yesterday to the whaling
office, demanding payment for the loss of the Ship, which
of course they declined without further proof -

It is a flimsy affair enough, & carries evidence upon
the face of it that Mr Macy has had his lipon from
the Owner - Mr Macy is the only one of the crew who
has arrived - Although we have been upon the look
out, he has escaped our vigilance - The Captain
I understand is coming our land & will probably
arrive in New York -

Herewith you have premium
notes No 13267 & 13396 -

Schr Susan (policy no 13302. has
arrived at New Orleans -

Respectfully yr obt servt
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 21 Jan'y. 1843

Wm J. Russell Maturin & Co

New York

Sir -

In consequence of the
late heavy rains, which ^{have} made the swamps impassible
the man whom I contracted with to furnish the
50 Cedar logs is unable to complete his contract
He has got out 40 logs which are now ready to ship -
If the mild weather continues it is very doubtful
whether I can obtain the remainder - I shall endeavour
to get the remaining from some other source, but
if I cannot very soon, shall I ship the 40 logs
on hand -

Very truly yr frd
W J. Russell

New Bedford 21 Jan^y. 1843

Lehman Cook & Co^y
New York
D^r

Enclosed is an application
from Edw^d C Jones for insurance on Bayne Hope
& outfit \$3500 on each - The Hope sailed a few
days since from here -

Y^r obt^t serv^t
Wm^t J. Russell

New Bedford May 4 1843
Messrs E & J Washburn & Co
Gent^l

Unwaxed you have
Invoice 5 Casks Fall oil, and one of unwt^d
eaches Winter, forwarded today per
Rail Road. This oil was ready to send
last Saturday, but owing to some mis-
understanding was left. We have no more
Winter oil on hand, and while the mild
weather continues it will be impossible
to make any that will deserve the
name. As we observed before, the weather
has not been cold long enough at a time
to make first rate winter oil. We should
have pressed it could we have foreseen this
warm weather. . . . We cannot find any
one disposed to send you winter oil to sell
on Com^o at the price you name. Mr. Poeson
declines, as well as several others whom we
have seen. You will therefore be obliged to
purchase in Bedford to supply customers for
the Present. There will probably be about
50 Bbls Winter oil from head matter & about
30 Bbls more from other oil, as near as we can
estimate.

We are Respectfully Yours

(signed) Wm^t J. Russell & Co

New Bedford 26 Jan 1843

L Cook Esq.
Yours

I have your favor of 20 H. 23 Just The latter Enclosing P. 13446 & Prem. note no 10542 for \$136.25/100 for collection.

Enclosed you have an application for Insurance on catchings on the Ship Mockesama for \$1000. Also Prem note no 13446

Herewith is a schedule of Rates from the Merchants Ins. Co. which I send you to examine. Two of the Directors will be in New York in a day or two and will call on you for your terms for insurance. The Premiums in this schedule are designately omitted. I have ascertained they amt. to about \$74.60. The ships taken in 1839. 1840 & Part of 1841 were at the old standard of Premiums, the others at the present Reduced rates. The Directors say they would prefer giving a certain Percent of the Premiums on the whole list rather than take each ship separately. I know of no objection to any of the New Bedford ships except the Abigail. The last accounts from her, she was in trouble at Sandwich Islands. They will set her aside, and also all coasters. From what I have heard and from some of the Directors they expect to get their insurance done for half of their Premiums. Not having had the Schedule a sufficient time to examine minutely, I am not prepared to give an opinion whether this will be a fair compensation.

Respy you Obedt
(sign) Wm J Russell

New Bedford 30 Jan'y 1843

Messrs E. T. Hastings & Co
Gentle

We have had the misfortune to break one of our guide bars to the stack press which has occasioned some delay in pressing winter oil. We are in hopes to finish the repairs today, so as to use the press tomorrow - and shall go on and finish pressing the head matter as soon as possible, but shall not be able to send you any Bsch's Winter oil this week.

The Fall oil of which you complain is the same, which you have had heretofore, & is the same we are retailing, of which no fault has been found. It had been put out under an open shed to freeze should the weather be cold enough, with a view of making Winter oil of it - and was a good deal chilled when forwarded to you. If you let it stand in your store a little while and settle and pump it off as you want it, you will find it to be good oil.

Several small lots of Crude Spinn oil were sold here last week at 57 cts money - Mr Downing of your City bought 100 Bbs at 57 cts money & another lot of 400 Bbs, the price of which is not known, but supposed to be 56 cts. But H. & A. show more anxiety to sell, and must shortly give way to lower prices.

We are Respectfully yours

(sign) Wm J Russell & Co

Grinnell, Minton & Co to Mrs J Russell Lr
 To 50 Cedar Logs purchased of Mr Athaway for
 their of measuring 1186 feet - 9 cords $84\frac{1}{2}$ at $16\frac{1}{2}$ "
 per Cord - 148.25
 To Cash pd I Tobey measuring logs 1.10
 To " Wharfage 9 cords at 15c 1.35
 New Bedford 2 Feby 1843 $\frac{3}{4}$ \$150.70
 Recd Payment by Draft on G. M. & Co
 dated 2^o Feby. at sight for \$150⁰⁰/100, favor John P Barker
 Cash -
 (signed) Wm J Russell

Messrs Grinnell, Minton & Co

Gentl^y

Above you have a bill of the 50
 Cedar logs which you ordered, amounting to
 \$150⁰⁰/100, for which amt I have drawn on you today
 favor Mrs. P. Barker Cash. The logs are on the
 Wharf ready for shipment, and I shall send them
 by the *Camelia* to sail in a few days. They are a
 handsome lot of Logs, and are I believe all accor-
 ding to the dimensions given

Respectfully Yours

New Bedford 2^o Feby 1843 $\frac{3}{4}$

(signed) Wm J Russell

New Bedford 2^o Feby 1843

Mrs Brewster, Koop, & Co
 New York

Gentl^y

Your favor of 8th ulto. is
 recd. The ruling price for Crude Spinn oil has been
 57 cts per Gallon for some weeks past. But I
 believe with money in hand it may be bought at
 56 cts. It will no doubt decline as soon as the
 season for making winter oil is past; so perhaps
 54 or 55 cts, and some are of opinion it will go
 down to 50 cts next summer, at 56 cts per gal.
 for Body & Head together, the value of Head matter

alone would be about 70 cts per Gallon.

At this moment there is not a Barrel of
Right Whale oil or a lb. of whale bone in this market.
It is more than a month since we have had an
arrival. Several Ships are daily expected. I will
advise you when we have an arrival

Respectfully your Obedt Servt.

(Signed) Wm J Russell

New Bedford 3 Feby 1843
Messrs. C. J. Hastings & Co
Boston
Gents

We have your favor of 2nd
inst. - The holders of Sperm Oil remain very stiff
at 57^{cts} We have been round among them again
to day & the best offer we had was 57^{cts} 5 mos on
But we are in hopes yet to get it at 56^{cts} if there
is not any new competitors in the market -

Mr Kingstard has purchased about 600 bbls
at Fairhaven - the price we have not been able
to ascertain - Mr Parker assured me Kingstard
offered him 56^{1/2} & which he refused -

We are respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell & Co

3rd Feby. 1843 - Wrote to Jos. R Williams
authorizing him to ~~draw on me~~ pay the taxes
on my Land in Michigan & draw on me for
the amt necessary for that purpose -

New Bedford 4 Feby 1843
Ansel Basset Esq
Taunton

Dear Sir

Your Favor of 25th ult
requesting me to send you 15 or 20 Gals Blech Wintu oil
was duly received, but accidentally mislaid & lost
sight of till today. I now comply with your request, &
send you by the Rail Road today a keg of Best Blech
Wintu oil containing 18 Gals, Bill of which is annexed.

I hope the Delay will not cause any inconvenience to
you. I shall be happy to supply you with oil in future,
or any of your friends in Taunton, and will promise to
be more prompt in future.

I am Respectfully your Obedt. Servt.

Wm J Russell

(The Keg is marked with your name on a card nailed to the head)

Ansel Basset Esq

Bill of Wm J Russell
1 Keg Blech Wintu oil
containing 18 Gals @ .75 \$13.50

New Bedford 4th Feby 1843

New Bedford 4 Feby. 1843

J. Cook Jr Esq

New York

Dear Sir

Enclosed you have an applica-
tion for insurance on Capt Swifts Nautical Instru-
ments, of Ship Oneida for \$1000 - Also for catchings
on board Ship Endeavour for \$550 - Also is enclosed
prem. note 13482 - The Directors of the Murchs Co
are very well satisfied with their bargain with the
Sun Comp'y - It is the general opinion here that they
have taken the risks quite too low -

Respectfully yr Obedt Servt
Wm J Russell

New Bedford 8 Feby. 1843
Messrs C T Hastings & Co
Boston

Sir - The holders of Sperm Oil here remain very stiff at 57¢. And not being willing to give that price we have made no purchase yet - And we begin to doubt whether we shall be able to purchase at least within a week - If you could have bought a part of the lot in Boston at 55¢, it would have been better than we can do here - We very much doubt whether Kingsland but at least than 56¢ - It does not agree with Mr Packard & Co -

As you suggest we think it would be best to press the Oil without boiling to save time as it is getting so late in the season - We think we shall be obliged to make up our minds to give 57 if we purchase this week -

We are respectfully yours
Wm T Russell & Co

New Bedford 9 Feby 1843
Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York - Dear Sir

I have your favor of 6th inst enclosing policies 13563 & 13564 - The latter policy 13564 on Nautical instruments I now return - Mr Hathaway who made the application, declining to give 4% - It can be done here at 3% -

The prem. on Ship Endeavour 13563. you observe is very low - She is a small Ship & is expected home next Summer - You will risk her about one year at a prem. of 2 1/2% - If the amt was larger, the Office here would take the same risk at 2% - The prem. of \$15 I have passed to your credit in A/c - it being below the limit of a note -

Our Office still continues to write on all Whaling risks at 2% per annum - If you ask more we shall get no business - Yet all are sensible it is too low - And I hope they may be raised next season

by mutual consent to their old standard -

I am respectfully

your obt. servt.

Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 10th Feb. 1843

Capt. Calvin C Adams,

(West Fishery)

Dear Sir,

Your Prom. note, for \$81.⁰⁰/₁₀₀ on Brig Pavilion will be due the 18th of this month. Have the Goodness to send the Money for it at that time

and oblige Yours Respectfully,

(Signed) Wm J Russell

New Bedford 13 Feb 1843

Messrs C J Hastings & Co
Boston

We have purchased 200 bbls crude Spm Oil at 5¹/₂ cts 4 & 6 mos Cr. I had added to have the offer of 300 bbls more at 4.5 & 7 mos Cr at the same price, but hesitate to take it on the of the first payment - They (Wilson & Richmond) from whom we have the offer will take a dft at 4 mos dated 23 of this mo for \$2000 & the balance at 5 & 7 mos or dft at 5.6 & 7 mos if you can get our draft discounted in Boston at 5 mos for \$2000 so that they can realize the money by the 23rd -

This is the best we can possibly do - but we did not like to close the bargain without consulting you in regard to the payments & shall wait to hear from you by return of mail - 500 bbls were sold here last Friday at 5¹/₂ cts Cash money down - Two other small lots were sold last week at the same terms

We cannot therefore expect to buy Oil on a very long credit at the same price, especially at this time when every body's Cr is distrusted - Our Cr we believe stands as well as any other Manufacturer in the place -

Annexed is Invoice 5 casky black & white Oil
forwarded per Rail Road to day - We shall send
the balance in a few days - This Oil is a small
lamp burnt 12 hours with a trifling crust & bears
30° of cold - We are making white Oil of the
taught press Oil & the remainder of the Fall Oil

The furnace is under way & we shall proceed
to make candles as soon as possible -

In haste we are respectfully
yrs W T Russell & Co

New Bedford 15 Feb 1843

C T Hastings & Co
Boston

We have purchased the lot of
crude Oil of Wilcox & Richmond about 300 bbls at 57cs
5, 6 & 7 mos Cr. interest added -

We have drawn on you under date of 1st inst,
at 6 mos. favor N Leonard & Co for \$272.17 - It being
for blacked white Oil purchased of them 426 gals,
at 62cs. 6 mos 3 ds Int. added -

We have also drawn on you under date of 13th
inst. at 4 mos. favor T S & A R Nye for \$1839. $\frac{67}{100}$
Also same date at 6 mos. favor same for 1839 $\frac{68}{100}$
It being for 6294 $\frac{1}{2}$ gals crude Sperm Oil, purchased
of them at 57cs 5 mos 3 ds Int. added \$3679.35/100 -

Calit. Marfuta is a Cabinet maker in rather
a small way - We are not personally acquainted with
him, but from what we can learn his note for a
few hundred dollars would be considered good

Respectfully Yours
W. T. Russell & Co

New Bedford 16 Feby. 1843

Lebedu Cook & Co.

Pres. Mutual Ins. Co.

New York

I have your favor of 7th & 11th insts - The latter instructing me to ask the old rate of premiums to which I shall adhere - The New Bedford Office will adopt the same premiums I have no doubt very shortly - I have seen most of the Directors & they all acknowledge the necessity of raising the premiums & say it must be done -

It is a mistake that the agents of the Merchant Ins. Co. would have given the preference to the Sun Mutual over your Office on the same terms - Capt. Merriam says he would have given the preference to your Office & considers yours entitled to more confidence on account of its larger capital -

Ship India arrived yesterday you are on her \$3300 - Ship Barclay is reported below - you are on her \$36000 -

Respectfully

your obt. servt.

Wm T. Russell

Messrs E T Hastings & Co & New Bedford Dec 17 1843

Gents

We have your favor of yesterday. The Draft in Favor of Leonard & Son, was a mistake in adding the interest. The Error was discovered immediately after our Letter was forwarded. The Draft has been altered and is now for \$264⁹²/₁₀₀.

We have forwarded today per Rail Road 3 Casks Blacken Winter oil & 2 Casks Winter. We are Pressing the Body oil; it works quite as well as we expected. The Head matter we are Boiling over.

We are Respectfully yours

(Signed) Wm T Russell & Co

New Bedford 20th Feby - 1843

Messrs E T Hastings & Co

Gentl.

We have drawn on you under date of 16th inst. in favor of Gideon Richmond and the following drafts:

3 months for	1574.78
6. for	1574.78
7. for	1574.77 - \$4724.33

For 8043 gals crude Spum oil

Purchased of them at 57 cts - 4584.51

Com 3 days, Int added 139.82 \$4724.33

We keep the presses going day and night, not stopping Sunday, in pressing the Bodys oil. The oil pressed so far, is of very fair quality. From the trials we have made, it will bear 38° of cold and remain limpid; and Burns very well. We shall forward some tomorrow

Respectfully Yours

Signed Wm J Russell & Co

New Bedford 21 Feby. 1843

Messrs E. T. Hastings & Co
Boston

We have your letter of yesterday's date - W J R's time has been so much occupied at the Oil Works for the last week that he has not had any time to spare on Mr. H's. I would be better prepared to see Mr. Hastings next Monday - Invoice is Invoice 5 casks Winter Oil, made from the last purchase -

We are respectfully yours
W. J. R & Co

New Bedford 21 Feb'y 1843

To Cooks p Esq

Dear Sir,

I have your favor of 18th Inst.

There has been considerably insurance effected on vessels heard from by the late arrivals here within the last week, at the low Premiums, and I have had a number of applications, which I, of course, declined. They would not, I should think, amount to more than \$50,000 altogether, & I doubt whether the ~~sure~~ office had the offer of the whole of them.

When I last wrote to you, I had great hopes that the officers here would all agree to raise the Premiums. They talked very far about it and acknowledged the necessity of it. But now the Pacific & Whaling offices make excuses, but have not positively declined, to come in to the arrangement. The Commercial would agree to it at once. But none of them would bind themselves to raise the premium on Sp. whalers to 3^d per annum - 6^d for 3 years & Pro rata ~~for~~ is considered by our merchants as well as Ship owners as a fair Premium, & I would advise you not to attempt to raise the Premium beyond it.

Enclosed is an application for Insurance on catchings on Boggy Spit Emeralds. She was 34 months out when last heard from, & will arrive in all Probability next Summer.

Respectfully Yours

(signed) Wm T Russell

New Bedford 23 Feby. 1843-

L. Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

Herewith you have an application for Insurance from C W Morgan \$8550 on Ship Rodmas, outfits & catchings - wanting 150 bbls to fill - She is one of our best whalers - is expected home next Summer & may arrive next May -

There is no agreement made yet by the Officers here to raise the premiums, but they still have it under consideration - In the mean time what little business is done is at the low rates -

Respectfully

Your obt Servt.
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 2 March 1843
Messrs. Blackburne & Bell
Liverpool
Gents

Your letter of 4th Feby with bill of clothes sent by Capt Delano has been recd - I have paid Capt Delano £13. 3. 6 - The balance £11. 10. 0, for clothes sent by Capt Huttleston in Feby. 1842, I paid him at the time they were recd, & you will please call on him for that amt -

In future I wish you would always collect the bill of the captain by whom the clothes are sent - & I will settle with him here immediately on receiving them - And I shall expect your charges to be at the cash price - The last bill I think is full high -

You will please send me by Capt Delano a French coat suitable for Summer of thin woollen fabric - or part wool - fashionable colour & two Summer vests -

Respectfully Yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 2 March 1843
Lieber Book & Co
New York
Sir

Above you have a check
on the Phoenix Bank for \$217.50/100 - It being
for amt of prem. note 11900 for \$81.25 and 10542
for \$136.25/100 -

Enclosed is an application for insurance
on catchings on board Ship Java of St Johns N B
for \$25,000 - You will observe there is to be no
deduction in case of loss from the sum insured on
account of outfit or crew shares - The crew shares
belonging to the owners of the Ship, they having been
paid off during the voyage, except the officers -
by a letter from the captain the Java was at Her-
schell's full board home & expected to sail 25th Apr 42
She is a new Ship on her first voyage & com-
manded by a New Bedford Man - All the
New Bedford Offices being full on her I have
been able to get what is considered here as
extra prem. -

I have amended policy N° 10511 on Barque
Franklin by making the sum insured \$10,000 on
catchings (valuing Sperm Oil at 75¢) instead of
outfit - Mr Parker having made a mistake, the
outfit being previously insured as he informs me -

Respectfully your obt Serv
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 4 March 1843
Lebedev Cook & Co
New York
D^r Sir

Enclosed you have prem. note
13700 for \$41.25/100 & 13714 for \$150.88/100 -

Your favor of 4th inst. came to hand this
morning - Capt Merrihue has no schedule of the
risks of the Merchants Office on hand, but will
have a copy made, which I will forward to you as
soon as done -

You enquire "What has become of the Bayard,"
I presume you mean the Barclay - She is expected
daily - There is no cause to feel any anxiety about
her -

I shall observe your orders & take but \$10000
on any one risk for the future - The agent of the
Sun Mutual continues to take \$20000 on a single
risk - I regret not having rec^d your orders before
I engaged to take \$25000 as the favor of St John,
but I consider the risk a good one -

The pamphlet you sent for "Articles for
a whaling voyage," you will find herewith -

Respectfully
your obt^l Serv^t
Wm^m J. Russell

No mail to day
via Stonington }

New Bedford 7 March 1843
L. Cook & Co
New York
D^r Sir

Your letter of 4th inst came to
hand this morning -

I made the Insurance on Ship John in good
faith & considered it binding at the time -
The prem. from the Sandwich Islands is $1\frac{1}{4}$ %
& I believe $1\frac{3}{4}$ % would be equal to the addition on
risk to St John - Their Ships are in high repute
here & are freely taken by our officers at a very low rate

additional premium - They never have yet lost a whale - The valuation would be excessive for our Ships - but they consider the Oil worth the valuation at St Johns, as it is admitted into England duty free -

Mr Green unfortunately is in Boston - I am going to Boston this afternoon on my own business & shall see him then & will endeavour to make an arrangement with him to reduce the valuation on the oil insured & will write you from there tomorrow -

In reply to your remark that "The Sun has \$10000 on the Java at 2 1/4% - I have to say that it was taken when the Ship had but little Oil & was bound from the Sandwich Islands for a voyage -

The Oil is valued at the same in other policies in this place -

I am respectfully

Yours obt Servt
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 23. March 1843
Messrs Brustein Koop & Co
New York
Gents

Several whale ships have arrived this month with cargoes of both Sperm & Whale Oil, but as there has been no material change in prices yet, I have not thought it worth while to address you on the ~~subject~~^{state} of our market -

The two first cargoes which arrived were sold at 34 to 35 c per gal for Whale Oil and 55 to 56 c for Sperm - The prices are now nominally 54 c for Sperm & 34 c for Whale - Whale bone 29 c - as prices are tending downwards - I have no doubt the price of Sperm Oil will recede to 50 c & Whale Oil to 30 c per gal. during the summer months -

I am respectfully
your obt. Servt
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 30. March 1843
L. Cook & Co
New York
Gents

Herewith you have an application for Insurance for catching on board ship for Haulane for \$1000 -

There is but very little insurance offering at this season of the year - No ships having sailed the last two months, & what little there is or parts of voyages, have been taken at less prem. than I feel at liberty to take -

The officers decline entering into any agreement to raise the premiums - But say they shall ask now on Right whalers than they have done, but will not say they will take none under 3% per ann. - Unless I have some discretionary power you must not expect much business from me - Respectfully yr obt. Servt
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 31. March 1843

Messrs. Burstein Koop & Co.
New York
Gentn

The only sales of ^{Oil of} any
importance since my last of 23 inst. are 500 bbls
Sperm at 55¢ cash, for the London market, which
was shipped via Boston. And 1000 bbls, yesterday
of Whale Oil at 31½¢ cash, for the Bremen market
Whale Bone 28¢ -

I am respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 1st Apr 1843.

Messrs. Burstein Koop & Co.
New York
Gentn

Since writing to you
yesterday, there has been a sale of 2000 bbls
Whale Oil at 30¢ per gal. cash. As this is an
unexpected decline I thought you would like
to be advised of it immediately. Whether it will
go lower will depend upon the next advice from
the north of Europe. No change in Sperm Oil
or Whale Bone -

Respectfully yours
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 3rd Apr. 1843
Messrs. Grinnell, Minton & Co
New York
Gents

I thank you for your favor of 1st inst. - I shall endeavour to execute your order for the purchase of Sperm Oil to your satisfaction whenever it can be done on the terms you name. At present it is useless to offer 50 cts, and I doubt whether any quantity can be bought at that price before the season for straining Oil has passed. - Say next June. - I may however shortly meet with some small lots of 100 bbls or upwards to be had at your limits. - There has been no transaction in Oil here since my last letter to you H. Y.

Very truly yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 4 Apr 1843
Messrs. Cook & Co
New York
Gents

Your favors of 24 & 31 ultimo are received.

Enclosed you will find prom. note on Ship for Standard No 13,971 - for \$36.25/100 -

Mr Arnold is out of town, when he returns I will get the prom. note exchanged, as you requested but I see no necessity for it, as the note is payable here.

I found enclosed in your letter a bank note to G. Allen for his prom. note for \$48.25/100 due 10 Apr. Mr Allen expects to pay his note in N Bedford - I gave him that assurance, that he wd not be obliged to pay his note in N York & I have the same understanding with all who have had business done with me - If you will forward the note to me I will collect it & remit the amt.

Respectfully yrs
Wm J. Russell

Ship Zephyr arrived 19th March

New Bedford 6 Apr 1843
Tel. Cook Jr Esq
Dear Sir

Enclosure is for Arnold's note
no 12603 for \$326.25/100 for prem. on Ship Barclay
payable in two months for 15 March - taken in
exchange for the original note given up to him -

You have also herewith the Whalers
shipping list, the only book number I have been
able to obtain - I have subscribed for them for
your office & they will in future be regularly
forwarded -

Respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 11 Apr 1843
Tel. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Your favor of 6th inst, came
to hand yesterday -

Enclosure you will find. Star Gibbs'
premium note on Ship Lefkys for \$868.31/100
taken in exchange for the two original prem. notes
with the extra prem. added -

I frequently have applications for insurance on
parts of voyages, but am almost always underbid -

Ship Mentor no 10657, arrived 20th March -
Ship Ouzimbo no 13282 & 13267, arrived 6th Apr -
Ship John Houlston, has been reported full - bound
home -

Respectfully
Yr obt servt
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 17. Apr 1843
Jeh. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Insurance is wanted by James Arnold on Ship Barclay, freight & cargo of Whale Oil from here to Hamburg to the amt of \$24,000 as follows -

On Ship \$4000 valued at \$5000
on Cargo 17,000 valued at 17,000
on freight 3,000 valued at 3,000 -

The Barclay is a substantial old Ship, in good order & would be insured by the officers here, as low as any other Ship to take a cargo of Oil to Europe. She sailed from here the 13th inst & got safe to sea on that day. Please name a prem. by return of mail for the whole amt or a part if you object to the whole - The freight & cargo could be insured at the New Bedford offices at 1% - The Ship would be more - No application will be made to them before I hear from you -

Respectfully yr obt servt
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 19. Apr. 1843 -
Jehudeh Cook Jr Esq
New York Dear Sir

I thank you for your favor of 18th inst. Mr Arnold is not prepared to say to day whether he will accept your terms of insurance on Ship Barclay, freight & cargo, but I am inclined to believe he will finally - He is satisfied with the prem. of 1% on freight & cargo, but thinks 1 1/2% on the Ship too high -

The Pacific Insurance Co of this town have voted to wind up their business - and I have been requested by the President to offer proposals to your office for reinsurance - and have the promise of a schedule of their risks to forward to you tomorrow - This makes three of our insurance companies which have lately gone into liquidation totally & reduces the insurance capital of this town \$300,000 -

The Marine Mutual company of this place have obtained a charter - They have stock notes subscribed to the amt of \$160,000. & are in hopes to increase it to \$200,000 - They are now about organizing & will soon be ready to commence business.

The Agent of the Sun Office I understand have given notice to the Merchants Co that they do not consider themselves bound to pay the loss on ship Brighton Boston, on the ground that she was condemned the same day that the reinsurance was effected - The Merchants Co contend that they did not warrant the ships in safety at the time they were reported in the news papers & that they shall hold the Sun office responsible for the loss of the Boston -

A question has been raised as to the sea worthiness of the vessel when she sailed -

The premium notes which you sent I cannot get exchanged in time to forward to day -

You will find enclosed the Pamphlet, "Articles for a whaling voyage" -

Respectfully yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 20th Apr 1843
Messrs Spinnell, Minturn & Co
New York, Gent^{rs}

Your favor of yesterday's date advancing your limits to 52½ c on crude Sperm Oil is at hand - At this price I have no doubt I shall be able to execute your order very shortly - There has not yet been a sale of good merchantable Sperm Oil here this Spring under 54 c - And that is now the nominal price - The ship Chili has just arrived - Her cargo will be in the market for the most it will bring - No late transactions in whale Oil or Bone -

I shall observe your caution & keep your order entirely to myself -

Respectfully yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 20 Apr. 1843.

Let. Cook & Co
New York
De^r

Mr James Arnold has concluded
to accept of your terms of insurance on Ship Barclay,
freight & cargo of whale Oil, from hence to Hamburg
reducing the amt. on the Ship to \$3000 - viz
on Ship Barclay \$3000 - valued at \$5000 at $1\frac{1}{2}\%$
on Cargo (whale Oil) 17000 valued at 17000 1%
on Freight 3000 valued at 3000 1%
I have made the insurance binding this day -
You will please therefore send me a policy, conform-
ably to the above by return of mail -

There may be a delay of several days in returning
the prem. notes you sent to be exchanged - one of the
gentlemen, ^{being} residing out of town -

Respectfully yr obt serv^t
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 24 Apr. 1843 -

Mr. Grinnell Minturn & Co
New York
Gent^l

Your letter of 20th inst. counter-
manding your order for the purchase of Sperm Oil
was not received until yesterday (Sunday). It had no
postmark & was sent & concluded by private conveyance -
The delay however is of no consequence, as it has happened
as the purchase cannot be made at present within your
limits - There has been no sale of Sperm Oil here
since I last wrote you - the price is still nominally 54¢ -
Whale Oil 31¢ -

Respectfully yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 24 Apr. 1843.

Deb. Cook Jr Esq
New York
D^r

Enclosed is Mr Arnold's prem.
notes n^o 14117-14118-14119 -

Herewith you have a schedule of the risks of
the Pacific Insurance Co; forwarded for your inspection
to fix a rate of prem. for reinsurance. Two of the
directors will be in New York next Wednesday & will
call on you for your terms. The New Bedford &
Fairhaven risks, are all very fair. The others I have
not much knowledge of -

Respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 25 Apr 1843

Deb. Cook Jr Esq
New York D^r

Capt Gardner formerly of Ship
Orbit of Nantucket, has arrived here a passenger
in Ship Isaac Houlard, and has stated in conver-
sation at the counting room of J. Houlard Jr & Co
that the watch were all asleep when the ship struck -
and related the same circumstances to Capt Swain
of Ship J. Houlard on their passage home -

Respectfully y^r obt servt
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 2 May 1843

Deb. Cook Jr Esq
New York
D^r

Draw a check on the
Fallon Bank for \$139.12 for the following prem.
notes up the interest - Alon Barker & Co Oroinbo
no 13282. due 10 June - 76.25 76.25
Sep 38 at Int. 48 75.77
Jas Riders nts. Oroinbo 13267 - 63.75
due 10 June. Sep 38 at Int. 40 63.35
\$139.12

They prefer paying the notes deducting the interest.
It is unnecessary to exchange the original prem. note
for a new one after the ship arrives - the original note
can be collected just as well as a new note & will
save the trouble of transmitting it back & forth -

J B Richman's note no 13266 - Ship India is
due. please forward it for collection -

The following premiums are agreed upon by the
Comt (Capt Crocker's Office) & the new Mutual Office
3% for one year & pro rata - 5% for two years - 6%
for three years & pro rata - 7% for the voyage, for
either Spinn whalers - The Whaling Office stands
alone & frequently cuts under these premiums -

I think it will be to your interest to conform to
these rates & to take as high as \$15000 on a risk
when asked for - I am now limited to \$10000 -

Respectfully yr Obt Servt
J. M. Russell

New Bedford 4 May 1843
Messrs John Poyer & Co
New York
Gent.

Your favor of yesterday's
date authorizing me to purchase two or three
hundred barrels Spinn Oil for your account is
recd - I have called on several holders of Spinn
Oil this morning & they all decline selling at your
limits - I still think I shall be able to make
the purchase at your limits, but have not time to
look further before the mail closes - There has
been more firmness in the Spinn Oil market lately -
Some refuse to sell at all at present prices & are
storing their Oil - By tomorrow's mail I can
let you know definitely what I can do -

Respectfully yr Obt Servt
J. M. Russell

New Bedford 5 May 1843

L. Cook & Co
New York City

Your favor of 3rd inst came to hand this morning. Alas you have a check on the Fulton Bank for \$30 - the amt of the premium No 13266 - Ship India which you forwarded for collection -

The Pacific Coy agree to pay the Sun Mutual \$45000 to insure their risk - I have seen the agreement & of course can speak with certainty - The committee assure me they first made the offer of \$45000 to you & were inclined to give you the preference - I think you are better without ~~them~~ the risk or such terms - The committee as well as the Stockholders, are exceedingly well pleased with their bargain - & those who are conversant with such risks, say it is too low to predict that nothing but great good luck will save them from a loss.

Respectfully
Yr obt Servt WTB -

New Bedford 5 May 1843

Messrs John Fryer & Co
New York City

I am writing you yes - Today I have tried our Market thoroughly & can find only one small lot of about 2000 yds Spun Oil, which can be had for 55 cts & 1/2 shot. it not worth while to take that, as I learn the Ship Victor has arrived at New York from the Sandwich Islands with Spun Oil from some of our whale ships. ~~I now~~ think you will be able to get the quantities you want on better terms than you can here at this moment -

The two largest cargoes which have arrived here this Spring are not in the Market - The Isaac Haul and 2500 bbls & Rodman 3000 bbls - The

owners declining to name a price for storing their Oil

The Boston Manufacturers have been this week purchasing & have pretty much swept the market of the small lots at prices varying from 53 to 55 c. I see no cause for the rise of Sperm Oil & cannot believe the present price will be maintained -

Should you at any future time want my services in purchasing Oil I shall be happy to serve you -

with much respect

Yr obt Servt

W. J. R.

New Bedford 6 May 1843

Zachariah Cook Jr Esq

New York Office

I did not receive until this morning a letter signed by Jos. B Collins Secy. dated 24th Apr enclosing Shaw Norris' prom. note of Mathias Vinyard, forwarded to be exchanged for a new note - The letter having no post mark I presume came by private hand - As it will be as much trouble to exchange the note as to collect it, I shall retain it until it is due - & then collect it & remit the amt. unless you object to it -

I am respectfully yours
J. Russell

New Bedford 25 May 1843

L. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Sir

Herewith you have an application for insurance on Ship Washington & outfit for \$3000 - She was bound on the N W coast & will in all probability arrive home next March or previous - The risk I consider a good one & will be taken by either of the officers here at the same price. Respectfully yr obt Servt
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 29 May 1843

L. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Your favors of 16th. 22nd & 26th inst all came to hand in one package - together with sundry premium notes forwarded to be exchanged for new notes - These notes I shall retain for collection until they are due, unless you insist upon their being exchanged, as it is more trouble to exchange them than to collect them - particularly when the insured resides in a neighboring town, as is the case with one or two of them -

Enclosed you here find a Bourns prem. note on Ship Washington no 14401 for \$106.25/100 -

I regret not having it in my power to call on you while passing through New York - I arrived in the City in the evening & left the next morning day & that time was so occupied that it was next to impossible to give you a call - I still more regret that I was not at home to show you any civilities while you was in New Bedford -

P.S. Since writing the foregoing I have an application for insurance on Bourns Schooner of Fall River for \$2000, bound to the N W coast

Respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 29 May 1843

Mr Shaw Norris
Edgartown
D^r

Your prem. note on Ship George
& Mary given to the Mutual Safety Ins^{co} of New York
has been sent to me for collection - Have the goodness to
forward me the amt. & oblige yours respectfully
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 31 May 1843

Z. Cook Jr Esq
New York D^r

I have your favor of 30th
inst enclosing policy no 14423 -

As you mention you intended leaving Town
next Saturday I will probably be absent some time
I would suggest to you whether it w^d not be to your
interest to revise your tariff of prem^s on whaling
ships before you leave the City, as we are losing
the best business part of the year, and make them
conform to the rates lately established by the
New Bedford companies - viz

30% for 1 year

5

2

6

3

} pro rate for fractions
of a year —

7 for the voyage

These premiums are considered a fair by all parties
here & you must ultimately conform to them or give
up doing business in this place —

Respectfully yr obt Serv^t
W. J. R

New Bedford 1st June 1843
Zebulon Cook Esq
New York City

I have taken \$10,000
on cargo of Ship Onieida for Ac of J. S. Hathaway
at & from Canton to a port of discharge in the
United States at $1\frac{3}{4}\%$ - risk of Lighter included
conditions of average as per your letter to Mr Hathaway
dated 19th May - Mr Hathaway wants \$30,000
insured on the Onieida cargo, but I did not feel
authorized by your instructions to take more than
\$10,000 - And he will take any additional sum
over & above \$10,000 not exceeding \$30,000 that
you may send a policy for -

The Administrator to the Estate of Walter
S. Spooner, has requested me to inquire whether there
is any scrip due on policy no 6496 - If there is
please forward it to me -

Respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 3 June 1843
Zebulon Cook Esq
New York City

Your favor of 2nd inst, enclosing
policy no 14446 - \$30,000 on cargo Ship Onieida - and
scrip certificate 1756 for \$56.25 is at hand -

Enclosed you will find prom. note no 14446
cargo Ship Onieida for \$536.25/100 -

Prom note 14423 Bunker Parthen of Fall
River, has been sent there for signature, and will
be forwarded to you as soon as received -

Respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 5th June 1843

Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York Office

Enclosed is an application
for insurance on catchings of ^{Sperm} ~~Borgue~~ ^{Porpoise} ~~Rajah~~ - She was
to cruise for Sperm Oil until last May & then proceed
to the N.W. coast to fill up with Right Whale Oil
& is expected home next Jan^y. - making the time insured
about 16 mos.

Respectfully Yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 19 June 1843

Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York Office

Herewith you have an appli-
cation for \$5000 insurance on ~~Catchings~~ ^{on board} ship
Mount Vernon from Talcahuana to New Bedford
a full ship bound home, as soon as she had obtained
recruits - She is a good risk & the prem $1\frac{1}{4}$ % is, was,
the usual rate in former times from that port -

You will also find enclosed prem. notes
No 14423 & 14471 -

Respectfully
Yr obt Servt.
Wm J. Russell

While writing the above I hear ~~\$420~~ an
application for \$420 on catchings ^{on board} the Mount
Vernon - a sailors share, which I have taken at
the same rate -
W. J. R.

New Bedford 21 June 1843

L. Cook & Co
New York Office

Above you have a check on
the Phoenix Bank for \$85.75/100 for two prem. notes
No 7277 \$79.25 & No 14555 \$6.50. Making \$85.75/100
(Your favor of yesterday's date & policies
No 14455 & 14454 is at hand - I could not get the prem.
note for the latter in time to forward by this mail -
the other being a cash prem. is included in the above
check -

Our experienced underwriters are well satisfied
with the rate of premiums lately established & I trust
that time will prove them to be profitable -

Very respectfully yours
Wm. T. Russell

New Bedford 12 July 1843

Mr Saml W Hawes
Buffalo

Your favor of 6th inst.
enclosing O Lees draft on Albany City Bank
payable in New York for \$632.75/100 being amt
Geo. A. Moore & Co's note due 5th inst. less charge
\$4.75/100, came to hand last evening - and that
sum is placed to your credit -

Geo. Davis' note due 2^d inst. you say
you will be able to obtain in a few days - It will
be very acceptable & I trust there will be no
further delay about it -

I have just returned from New York - in
my absence Mr Prescott tells me he has written
to you respecting the Mill, authorizing you to sell
it for \$800 if you cannot obtain more, to which
I agree - believing it better to sell for that sum
under all the circumstances, than to hold it any longer -

Very truly yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 14th July 1843
Lebedu Cook Jr Esq
New York
Sir

I have an application for insurance on cargo of Ship Onida - what will be the prem. from New York to Valparaiso &c. Also the prem. per annum - what will be the conditions of average - And what amt will you take - Please answer these enquiries by return of mail -

I have your favor of 13th inst, enclosing A Gibbs prem. note n^o 7562 for collection, which shall be attended to -

The prem. notes forwarded for collection some time ago, will be coming due next week & will be immediately remitted -

Applicants for insurance have been very rare of late - The principal Ship Owners, being interested in the New Bedford Co; give them the preference -

Respectfully Yours
Wm. T. Russell

New Bedford 21st July 1843
Lebedu Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Above you have a check on the Phoenix Bank, for the following prem. notes

n ^o 10467	180
11511	301.25
11461	35 "
13971	36.25
3303	541.25
	\$1093.75

The remaining prem. notes forwarded at the same time remain unpaid, but I have the promise of them in a few days -

(over)

Enclosed you have an application for insurance -
\$2500 on Ship Falcon & outfit -

Your favor of yesterday's date is at hand
enclosing Tariff of premiums. I have shown it to
Mr Hathaway ^{as you requested} - He has not yet got any insurance
done on the Oneida, but has written to Boston
expecting to get it done at a less price than you
ask - If he does not he will call on me again -

Your obt. Servt
W J R

New Bedford 24 July 1843

Lebedu Cook Jr
New York

Enclosed you have an order
for insurance on Ship ~~Falcon~~ ^{Shepards} & outfit for \$4000 -

Your favor of 22nd inst is at hand, enclosing
Policy on Ship Falcon -

James Arnold's prem. note n^o 12603 is post
due & had better be forwarded for collection -

Your obt. Servt.

W J Russell

New Bedford 26th July 1843

Lebedu Cook Jr
New York

Herewith you have an order
for Insurance on Cargo of Ship Horatio from Boston
\$30,000 at 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ % - The Horatio is expected very soon -
Mr Hathaway has not yet effected insurance on the
cargo of Ship Oneida at Boston. As she will not
sail immediately, he has delayed making insurance -

Enclosed you will find the following premium
Notes - 14554 - 14730 - 14754 -

Your obt. Servt

W J Russell

Your favor of 25th inst is at hand with policy
n^o 14754 - This Policy restricts the Ship to cruising

in the Pacific Ocean. Although she is fitted for a Sperm
Whale voyage - liberty is wanted to cruise elsewhere,
and I have so amended the Policy - giving liberty to
cruise in any Ocean or Bay where she ^{can} ~~may~~ obtain whales,
and to sell catchings - This liberty is customary at all
the N. Bedford offices - You will please so to amend
your Policy as to conform -

Yr obt servt.

W. J. Russell

July
New Bedford 29th 1843.

Messrs. Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

New York

Gent^s

Your favor of 27th inst. is at
hand. I have made enquiries round the country
for Cedar Logs, and have not been able to find
any ready cut as large as those I sent you last
winter. They were 18 to 20 feet in length & 13 to 15
in. diameter. One man ~~has~~ can furnish them
14 to 16 feet long & about 10 in diameter. These logs
were cut expressly for boat boards - Have preference
by our boat builders to larger ones. If these
Logs will answer your purpose, you will
please let me know & I will forward them
immediately. +

The whale line sample shall be
sent by first packet -

+ It will be impossible to get logs cut at this season
of the year, as the swamps are accessible only when
frozen -

Respectfully yrs
W J R

New Bedford 31 July 1843

J. Cook Jr Esq
New York

Herewith you have an order for insurance on Ship Messager & outfit - for \$3500 -

Mr Hathaway demurs at signing the prem.

note on Ship Horatio's Cargo, on the ground that it is doubtful whether I was authorized to make the insurance binding - I conceived at the time that I could make the insurance binding, for \$30,000 on a first rate vessel from Canton, at $1\frac{3}{4}\%$ ~~and have signed a prem. to the effect -~~ although on all whaling risks I am limited to \$10,000 - Mr Hathaway does not positively refuse to sign the prem. note, but wishes it left till he returns to New York, ^{which will be in a few days} I will settle it there with you - It rests with you to say whether you would have paid the loss, had the ship been wrecked instead of arriving safe -

Respectfully yr obt servt
W. J. R

New Bedford 1st August 1843

Isidor Cook Jr
New York
Dr Sir

Herewith you have an order for insurance on Berque ~~\$425~~ on Octavia - \$1125 on vessel & outfit -

Yr obt servt
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 7th Augt. 1843

T. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Sir

Should you have a check
on the Mechanics Bank for \$218.27/100. for the following
Prem. Notes -

N ^o 8487 -	141.25	
additional prem	35.77	177.02
N ^o 13700 -		41.25
		<u>\$218.27</u>

You will find enclosed the following prem. notes

Jas. Henry Houlston 14785 -	105.62	} Ship } Messrs
Edward Houlston } - 14785 -	105.63	
by his atty Jas H. H		
		<u>\$211.25</u>

J^r R Thornton 14789. Bazaar Octavius - \$57.50

Respectfully

Yr obt Servt

W. T. Russell

New Bedford 10th Aug. 1843

Lebedu Cook Jr Esq
New York
Sir

Enclosed you will find
Thos S Hathaways premium note n^o 14765 -
Cargo of Ship Horatio - for \$526.25/100 -

I am respectfully

Yours obt Servt

W. T. Russell

New Bedford 15 Aug 1843
Jeb. Cook Jr Esq
New York
D^r

Above you have a bill
on the Sultan Bank for \$247.88/100 - Amt of
Edw^d C Jones prem. note n^o 11205, exp 8th Sept for
21 days int. it being due 5th Sept

Enclosed you will find Alex Gibbs
prem. note n^o 7562 for \$451.35/100 - Ship
Thongwa, taken for original note for same amt.

I have been informed that the agent of
the Sun Mutual has lately taken a risk on
Ship Lehigh at 5% for 30 months - I have
had several applicants of late, who have not
returned to me to make insurance - they have
got it done on better terms elsewhere -

I am respectfully
y^r obt Serv^t
W. T. R -

New Bedford 21st Aug 1843
Grinnell Minturn & Co
New York
Gent^l

I have been disappointed
in procuring the few fathoms of Manila whale
line which you sent for - I had the promise
of it from one of our Manufacturers, but his
partners objecting to cut a coil for a sample to
send abroad, they finally have declined to let me
have it unless I will take a whole coil - I have
attempted to get a sample from a ship ready
for sea, but all object to cutting a new coil
Unless you will take a whole coil I shall not
be able to send you any -

I am respectfully yours
Wm T Russell

New Bedford 21 Aug. 1843
Zachary Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Herewith you have two
orders for insurance on the Whaling Barque Peri
for \$1395 & \$3000 -

Yr obt servt.
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 22 Aug 1843
Z. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Enclosed you have an order
for insurance on Barque Peri \$750 on vessel &
outfits -
Respectfully yrs
W J R

New Bedford 24 Aug. 1843
Z. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

not forwarded
I have had several proposals
from Mr Edward C Jones to insure his Ship Roman
from here on a whaling voyage at less than the
established rates, and have declined them all -
This morning he has renewed his offer & shown me
a policy on that ship from a New York Office (which
I am not at liberty to name, but which you can readily
imagine) for \$12500 on that ship & outfits on the
following terms. $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ for 18 months, to return two
per cent if the risk ends in one year. - At the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$
per annum for more than one year, warranting 5%
in case of loss. - At & from New Bedford July 19th. 1843
at noon the day she sailed - Ship valued at \$17,000
Outfits the same - Mr Jones wants \$13,000 insured
half on ship & half on outfits - The Roman was
built in New Bedford, & is a first rate ship -

It is for you to say whether you will accept of the
terms, I forward a policy -

New Bedford 25th Aug 1843

Lib. Cook & Co
New York
Dujin

not forwarded

Bone
I have an offer of 4th on Oil
on board Ship Parker of this port for the remainder
of the voyage, but as she is considered out of
time I do not like to take the responsibility of
accepting it - The Parker sailed from hence
26th Sept 1839 - put away from NW Coast for
Coast of Japan last of July 1842 - has since been
spoken off Japan 15 Sept. 1842 with about 3000
bbls Spinn & whale Oil wanting about 800 bbls
to fill the ship - Our Office are all full on the
Parker, some insurance was done on her cargo last
May at 2% for remainder of the voyage - The Parker
is a good ship & was well fitted for a long voyage
& could be insured at the commencement of a voyage
as low as any other ship - There has been several
instances of whale ships being at sea 12 mo. without
any news from them then arriving in safety -

If you feel inclined to take this risk,
send me a Policy by return of mail for \$6000
for Jos. Dunbar & Co, for whom it may concern
Spinn Oil valued at 75¢ & Whale 35, Bone 35 -

The policy to be ~~noted~~ ^{not void} if the ship arrives in the
mean time, or then is accounts of her loss -

I have your favors of 22nd & 23rd with Policies
~~14909, 14910 & 14911~~ 14909 - 14910 & 14923 - The prem. notes
are not ready to send by this mail -

I am respectfully
Yr obt Servt
W. J. R

New Bedford 28 Augt. 1843
Mr Charles Howland
Buffalo
D^r Sir

Your favor of 19th inst. with a draft payable in New York for \$204.40/100, being the amt rec^d by you for E R Wilkins note^{sent} left in your hands for collection, was duly received - and I am very much obliged for your attention to this business.

Geo. Davis' note due 1st Augt you say is not paid - I believe there was an understanding between him & Mr Harvey that the note might be extended 30 days if it was not convenient to pay it at maturity - I hope at the expiration of that time say 1st Sept he will not fail to pay it - and I would ask the favor of you & Mr Harvey to press the payment of it after granting him this indulgence -

Our staple article has been on the rise since last spring - Large sales of crude Sperm Oil have been made at 70 c - whale Oil has advanced to 35 c & whale Bone to 42 c - Several ships have been added to the whaling fleet here this season, & business generally looks more prosperous for New Bedford than it has for some time past -

With kind regards to Mr Howland, Mrs Taber & all your family I remain very truly
Yr friend
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 29 Aug. 1843
Lebedev Cook Jr Esq
New York
Sir

Herewith you have an order
for insurance on Spinn Oil & Candles from hence
to Phila at $\frac{1}{2}\%$ - the customary prem. at this season
of the year

You will find enclosed prem. notes n^o 14909
& 14923 - and C P Coells note n^o 14554 for \$63.75/100
dated 12 Aug at 2 mo^s - taken for the original
prem. note payable at the termination of the risk -

D R Greene & Co desire me to enquire the prem.
on Ship Jarow of St Johns N B from there on a
whaling voyage - Say \$11000 on Ship & outfit
Ship & outfit each valued at \$18000 - Our Offices
have taken a large amt on her at $\frac{1}{2}\%$ for the
voyage - I do not consider myself at liberty to
take these risks without consulting you -

I am respectfully
yr obt Servt
W. J. R.

New Bedford 1st Sept 1843
Lebedev Cook Jr Esq
New York

Sir

Messrs D R Greene & Co. ^{in Boston} have
effected the balance of insurance of the Jarow at $\frac{1}{2}\%$ -
they would not lay themselves under an obligation to
wait until I heard from you -

Mr Edw C Jones made me repeated offers to take
his Ship Roman previous to her sailing at less than
the established prem. which I of course declined - I
understand she has since been taken by a N Y. Office
on the following terms - $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ for 18 months, to return
 2% if the risk ends in one year - $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ per ann. for more
than one year - warranting 5% in case of loss -

The Sun Office has taken the Florencia in the face
& eyes of the late gale, in which so many vessels met with

disasters - She sailed but a few days previous & must
have encountered it - Mr Jones offers me the risk but
I decline it unless he is except any loss by the gale

I am respectfully yours
W. F. R.

Since writing the foregoing I have had an appli-
cation for insurance on the Staguen - and offered to take
her at the established prem. but was told it could
be done for less. & I have reason to believe the offer
is from the Agent of a N.Y. Co -

New Bedford 9th Sept 1843
Messrs. Grinnell Minturn & Co
Gent^l

I have completed your
order this morning for Sperm Oil, by purchasing
a lot of about 600 bbls, which has been stored
about a year. The colour is unexceptionable
& in every respect I believe quite equal to the
first purchase - This is an entire lot & I was
compelled to take the whole, & would not object
to it, as your limits extend to 1100 bbls - I have
~~engaged~~ the freight at 15¢ - It will all be shipped
by Tuesday at a freight of 15¢ - The Messrs Nyes
of whom I purchased the 600 bbls would prefer
your acceptance to the money at 5% interest at
4, 6 or 12 months, but would prefer the longest
time - You will please inform me by return of
mail whether you would prefer the credit to
paying the money -

I remain very truly yours
Wm. F. Russell

Should you want 500 or a 1000 bbls more
I believe I could purchase it on the same terms,

New Bedford 12 Sept 1843
Messrs Spinnell Minturn & Co
New York
Gentⁿ

Herewith you have Invoice
of bill of lading of Sperm Oil, purchased for
your account, amounting to \$55441.15 exclusive
of charges - I have this day drawn on you in favor
J. H. & R. Nye at sight for \$14392.35 - and also
in favor George Howland for \$11048.80, making
the above sum - The entire lot purchased of J. H.
& R. Nye over runs the quantity you limited about
53 bbls - making the whole quantity 1153 bbls - which
I could not well avoid - and hope it will be sat-
isfactory to you - You will observe I have left
the Commissions blank, not knowing whether I am
to share them with Mr F. A. Delano - I shall be
satisfied with whatever you allow - and when you
inform me what it is I will draw on you for it
including the charges of Wharfage & cartage -

The Sch^r Cornelia will take a full load - the
balance say about 150 bbls will be shipped per
Sch^r Industry - they are now loading & will have
all on board tomorrow - You will observe it is
under & on deck -

Very truly yours
W J R

New Bedford 13 Sept 1843
Zachariah Cook Jr
New York
D^r Sir

Above you have a draft
on the Phoenix Bank for \$206.67 amt of the
following prom. notes -

N^o 12902 34.25

13714 150.88

Int on the above 1.79 186.92

N^o 14976

19.75

\$206.67

You will find enclosed prem. note no 14910
payable in two months.

Respectfully yr obt Servt
W. J. R

New Bedford 22 Sept 1843
Messrs. Grinnell, Munroe & Co
New York
Gent^l

I have rec^d your favor of 21st inst
authorizing me to purchase 400 to 600 bbls crude
Sperm Oil if to be had at 70 cts. and 200 bbls Head
matter & 100 Body Oil, without limit. I have
not been able to execute your order this morning
and very much doubt whether I shall be able to
~~execute your order~~ ^{I can purchase} at all at 70 cts. Several parcels
which ~~have~~ ^{have} been offered to me at 70 cts last week are
now held at 75 cts. There is a good deal of excitement
in the Oil Market just now, in consequence of
considerable sales within a few days. & the news
by the last Steamship ^{which} is considered rather favorable
for higher prices in England - which makes it
a very unfavorable time to buy at this moment.
There is one or two person whom I could not see
this morning, who may be inclined to sell at your
limits. I shall be on the look out for the head
matter Oil. I will do the best I can ^{for you} in purchasing
it, but it is always difficult to purchase it Sep-
arate from body oil ~~at a fair difference in value~~
I regret to learn that the gauge of the oil ^{at your} falls
short so much. I know but little about Brantons
gauge, but supposed it equal to any other. I
expected the wants might fall short a little. The Oil
being exposed to the late cold weather, but I cannot
account for its falling short so much.

The cargo is satisfactory under the circumstances
& I will draw on you for the expenses & 1/2% Com^{is} -

I remain very truly yrs
W. J. R

New Bedford 26 Sept 1843
Lebedev Cook & Co
New York
Dear Sir

I have you here a check
on the Phoenix Bank for \$192.46/100. being
amt of Hathaway & Luel's prom note no 11772.
less 40 days interest \$1.29/100 -

You will find enclosed a prem. notes no 15109 -
15116 -

Respectfully yr obt Servt
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 26 Sept 1843 -
Messrs. Spinnell, Minturn & Co
New York
Gentlⁿ

I have your favor of 23rd inst.
authorizing me to pay 72 c for the parcel of Spum
Oil which I recommended as being of superior
quality in my letter of 23rd inst. - I regret to say
that it has since been sold at 72 c - & that there
is no more of that cargo (The Ship Virginia) for
sale at that price - about 500 bbls of that cargo
owned in Boston is limited at 75 c - I do not
consider myself at liberty to purchase any other lot
at 72 c without further orders from you - I am
not confident that any other lot of Spum Oil
of satisfactory quality could be bought now
at 72 c - ~~for 75 c is asked for all qualities~~ - But
perhaps in a few days, the excitement may subside
& I may be able to purchase at that price, but I
do not believe there will be any more sold at less
than 72 c this Fall & the holders here are very
confident they will obtain 75 c very shortly -

I shall wait your further orders & remain
Very truly yours
W. J. R.

New Bedford 29 Sept. 1843 -
Messrs Grinnell Minturn & Co
New York City,

I regret to say I cannot
fulfill your order for 400 to 600 bbls Sperm Oil
at 72 c & select Oil that will be satisfactory to you.
There are purchasers in the market who have been buying
at 72 c without much regard to quality - The parcel
which I mentioned yesterday, the best I could find
offered at 72 c. & rather high coloured has since
been sold at 72 c - One parcel of 500 bbls. the
quality of which I know to be good & expected to get
at 72 c was sold yesterday at 73 c - And I cannot
promise now that I could purchase at 73 c, Oil
that will suit you - Several parcels of Oil
which I rejected at 70 c in making the former
purchase have since been sold at 72 c - The
next advance will be 75 c - And from the present
feeling in the market I do not believe I could
select 500 bbls of desirable quality at a less price -
If you 75 c must be given it will ^{be} best to wait
a while, but not so long as to lose the first
cut at it - for the best Oil will be the first sold -
If you are anxious to buy now, I would recom-
mend your giving me discretionary orders to buy
at any price not above 75 c -

The stock of Sperm Oil here is very much
diminished - as near as I can learn I do not believe
there is to exceed 25000 bbls on hand & some reckon
it at less & a large proportion of this is not for
sale in the crude state, it being in importers
hands who will manufacture it -

I have not yet been able to purchase & fulfill
your order for 200 bbls Head Matter & 100 bbls body Oil
it is extremely difficult at all times to fulfill such
an order at a reasonable difference in value, but
am now in treaty for some & hope to succeed at
a fair price -

I remain very truly yrs
W. J. R

New Bedford 23 Sep 1843
Messrs Grinnell Minturn & Co
New York
Gentⁿ

Since writing you yesterday I have tried the market thoroughly & have not found any holder of Spinn Oil that will sell at 70 c^s. One inferior parcel, which would not suit you was sold yesterday at 70 c^s & other ^{small} parcels of ~~poor~~ ^{fair} quality were sold at 71 c^s. There are several purchasers in the market too for English Sp & others for manufacturing - ^{& suit is the paper & mfg. all} Most of the holders now ask 75 c^s. for prime quality - and I have no doubt it will command that price next ^{month} week. I was offered a parcel of about 300 bbls. which may perhaps be increased to 500 bbls of very beautiful Oil at 72 c^s, and presume I can have it at the same price a few days hence, if you ^{should} conclude to take it. I consider it worth one if not two cents per gal. more than ~~the parcels above mentioned~~ ^{some oil sold at 70 c^s} - and I doubt I have not yet met with any such matter that can be bought separate from body Oil.

There was a sale of Whale Oil yesterday from the N W coast at 40 c^s. for manufacturing - & other sales of fair quality at 37 c^s.

Very truly yours
W J R

I have drawn on you today 48 shillings for \$182.16 for the expense of Com on the last shipment of Oil viz -

Cartage 81 1/2 tons @ 25 c ^s	20.37
Wharfage 1153 bbls @ 30 c ^s	34.59
Com on \$25441.15 @ 2 1/2 %	127.30
	<u>\$182.16</u>

New Bedford 30th Sept 1843.
Messrs. Grinnell Minton & Co
New York
Gent^{rs}

I have had offered to me
this morning 240 bbls, Sperm Oil of Ship Virginias
cargo at 73c. I would recommend you taking
it on account of its superior quality. I could not
get the refusal of it for a few days, and it may be
sold before I hear from you. I write you fully
on the state of the Oil market yesterday, & have
nothing new to add today.

Respectfully yours
Wm. T. Russell

New Bedford 30 Sept 1843
Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York
Sir

I have had the money tendered
to me for Sol.^r C Swifts prom. note n^o 12384, for
\$22.25⁰⁰. Please send the note by return of mail.

Timothy Coffins note n^o 10657, has been over-
looked & is past due - please forward it for col-
lection -

Yr obt Serv^t
W. T. R.

New Bedford 3rd Oct. 1843
Messrs. Grinnell Minton & Co
New York. Gent^{rs}

Your favor of 2nd inst
declining to take the parcel of Sperm Oil offered to
me at 73c is at hand. There was an applicant for
the same parcel yesterday ^{at 73c} & I prevailed on the holder
not to ~~sell~~ ^{wait} it until ^{I could see them} after the mail arrived this
morning. This person will now take it at 73c.

I have done my best in trying to purchase the
200 bbls Head matter I have not been able to succeed

I am compelled to give it up. The parcel of Head
matter which I wrote you I had some prospect
of buying, proved to be very thin & dark coloured.
After seeing every person who has Oil for sale, I have
not found one who will name a price for Head
matter separate from the body Oil - Mr Bartlett
has an order but ^{spending} for several hundred bbls
of Head matter & after waiting several months, was
not able to fulfill the order -

There are some small parcels of Oil which
may perhaps be bought at 72¢ but the quality is
inferior & would not suit you - I will continue
to try, but do not expect to execute your order at 72¢ -

I am respectfully yours
W. J. R.

New Bedford 4 Oct. 1843

Messrs. Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

New York

Gent^l

The news by the British Steam
packet of the use of Sperm Oil in London, has set
the ^{City} market here in a great commotion - 75¢ is now
asked & I have no doubt that will be the ^{the} establish
price for the season.

New Bedford 17 Oct. 1843

Messrs. Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

New York

Gent^l

By advice of your Mr. H. Grinnell
I have concluded a bargain ^{this morning} for 140 bbls Head
matter at 93¢ of a quality that I have no doubt
will be satisfactory - There now remains to be pur-
chased to complete the order 150 bbls head & body
we concluded to give 77¢ for either of two lots
which were offered yesterday at that price. But
would not buy until the Head was secured -
but today 78¢ is asked - I shall therefore defer

buying until I have consulted with Mr. Guinness.
He went to Naushon Island this morning & will
return tomorrow in time to take the Car for
New York -

The Stock of Sperm Oil held for sale
is very much reduced & some holders will not
sell now under 80 c - If the ^{next} Steamer brings
out of the best oil in England of Sperm Oil
in London the price will immediately go up
I have no doubt to 80 c - I shall be in favour
of completing your order tomorrow at any price
under 80 c if it meets the approbation of your
M^r H. G. -

I am respectfully Yours
W. J. R.

New Bedford 19 Oct 1843
Messrs. Guinness Minturn & Co
New York
Gent^l,

Your favor of 18th inst is at hand.
I would say in justification for not buying the
150 bbls of Head & Body Oil before, that there was so
much uncertainty of being able to buy the 150 bbls
of Head Oil, that I did not like to take the respon-
sibility of buying it without knowing that I could
secure the Head Oil - The person whom I have
now purchased the Head Oil of, refused to name
any price a fortnight since - and all whom I applied
^{about that time} to refused to separate & sell the Head Oil separate
from the body - Your letter of 2^d inst to which you
refer was not a peremptory order to buy, ^{then} but suggested
whether it would not be best -

The British Steamer arrived last evening
at Boston & brings accounts as is reported of a trifling
rise of Sperm Oil in London - whether it will have
any effect on the price here I cannot say - The market
this morning is completely unsettled, & it is of no use
to attempt to buy, until there has been time to digest
the news from England - But I shall not defer

completing your order longer than tomorrow or next day
I have drawn on you today in favor of P
Baker Cash for \$4091.75/100 date. at sight. for
4399 gals. Head Oil at 93¢ purchased for your
act—
Respectfully yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 23 Oct. 1843—
Messrs. Grinnell, Minturn & Co.
New York
Gent,

I have closed a bargain this
morning with Mr Edw Robinson for 150 bbls
crude Oil ~~at 83²⁵~~ Head at 80¢ with the privilege
of selecting it from his whole stock. after
taking the liberty to wait several days, although
your order was peremptory to buy immediately
on the best terms I could, & trying the market
thoroughly, this is the best I could do. Holders
generally ask 80¢ to take a parcel of Oil, good
bad & indifferent, without any selection. I could
have bought two lots which were objectionable
on account of colour & sickness at 78¢. Some parcel
at 76¢ quite inferior. But at these prices there
does not appear to be any purchasers in the market.
~~I presume there will be no more sales at 80¢.~~
Mr J H Bartlett has a peremptory order to buy 150 bbls
without limit of price, & has just been in & told me
he could not buy at 78¢. but would not offer more
at present. I shall ship the Oil immediately
& expect to be obliged to give 17¢ per bbl for this
parcel. as the season is it is not a full load.
& the season is more advanced

Respectfully yours
W T R

New Bedford 23 Oct. 1843

Feb. Cook & Co
New York
Sir

Mr Thos S Hathaway wants
\$30,000. insured on cargo of Ship Horatio at
from New York to Canton at $1\frac{1}{2}$ op. If you
want the risk at that prem. please send a
policy by return of mail - If you want the
particulars of the cargo. Messrs. Gell & Co can inform
you - Enclosure you have prem. notes
no 15255-15256 & 15278 - Mr Coffin's note
no 10657 - remains unpaid - but he promises
to pay it soon -

Respectfully yours
W. J. R -

New Bedford 25 Oct. 1843 -

Messrs. Grinnell Minturn & Co
New York
Gent^l

I have your favor of 24 inst.
in reference to the 400 bbls Sperm Oil bot by Mr Battelle
at 78 cts. which you mention. I have to say, that the same
Oil was offered to me at 78 cts. & a part of it lying at
Seppican at 77 cts. - but was rejected on account of colour
& bad casks - particularly the parcel which he bot of
Jno A Parker & Co. lying on the wharf. Most of the casks
were bad, having been two voyages - the Oil generally
of a dark straw colour, but a few casks were very tight -
in short the Oil which Mr Battelle bot at 78 cts I
know you would not be satisfied with - I know
I have given ~~20~~ for the tip top of the market price
but as an equivalent I had the privilege of selecting
from 150 bbls from Sipicacas of 1500 bbls - The
Oil Market to day is rather flat, & one parcel of fair
quality, for which 78 cts was refused the other day
has been offered to me this morning at that price -

I have engaged to ship the Oil purchased
for you by Sch^r Cornelia at 17 cts per bbl - She will

be loaded tomorrow & ready to sail on Friday.
I no doubt will deliver the Oil in time to go by
the Patrick Henry. ~~Invoice~~ Invoice bill of
lading will be forwarded tomorrow. & I shall
draw on you for the balance of the Oil.

Remain very truly yours
W J R

New Bedford 26 Oct. 1843
Messrs. Grinnell, Minturn & Co.
New York
Gents,

Herewith you have Invoice
& bill of lading 52 Casks crude Sperm Oil, on
board Sch^r Cornelius, purchased & shipped for
your account.

I have drawn on you to day in favor of P. Barker
Cash at sight for 4722 ~~gals~~ ^{gals} crude Sperm Oil at 80cs
\$3777.60 - being for the balance of your last order
exclusive of charges. You will please say what
com^s I shall charge & I will draw on you for it
including the other charges -

^{market} There is The Sperm Oil is less firm. 600 bbls
in two parcels were sold yesterday at 78cs. which
has been held at 80cs for some time past.

New Bedford 9 Nov 1843
Messrs. Grinnell, Minturn & Co.
New York
Gents

Your favor of 7th inst^{ce} came
to hand this morning, requesting a statement of the
Sperm Oil market. There has been ~~but~~ no material
change for a fortnight past. ^{80cs is the general asking price} Small parcels have been
sold at 78cs of fair quality, ^{and I might perhaps buy}
~~small lots~~ ^{of ordinary quality} at a few hundred barrels at that price, but
I could not go into the market with any confidence
of succeeding

to buy at less than 80cs. It is reported that 78cs was
offered yesterday for the Omega cargo, at Fairhaven
~~the boat & refused.~~ Whale Oil 40cs. but a few hun-
dred barrel, in first hands - ~~new~~ Whale Bone 50cs
only a small parcel or barrel partly damaged -

Respectfully yours
Wm J Russell

New Bedford 15 Nov. 1843

Feb. Cook & Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Above you have a check on
the Phoenix Bank for \$100, ¹⁰⁰ ~~100~~ amt of Jan^r Bournes note
no 12538 ^{dep 12/1} ~~for~~ less 17 days int deducted from the original
note \$101.25 -

You also have herewith Nathan Churchs note
no 1916 & 11872, ^{for 12/48, 14/100} embracing the two original notes given
up to him - And also Wilson & Richmonds note
no 8271 on ship Hope returned to you - that ship
not having yet arrived & is not expected before next
Spring - You have mistaken Geo. Howlands ship
Hope lately arrived - for Wilson & Richmonds ship
of the same name - There are no less than three
whales of that name belonging to this port -
Mr Coffins note no 10657 - remains unpaid - He
continues to promise payment soon -

Respectfully yours
Wm J Russell

New Bedford 18th Nov. 1843

Messrs Grinnell, Minburn & Co
New York
Gent,

I have closed the bargain for 1000 bbls Crude Sperm Oil of Ship Jos. Maxwell's cargo at 78 cts + lying on the wharf & no charge of wharfage or truckage - J. A. Parker offered me 1000 bbls at 77 1/2 cts - about half is handsome Oil the other half, fair, being a little coloured & the head rather thin - The Jos. Maxwell's I consider worth the difference in the price if not more - And I believe will give you better satisfaction, than Mr Parker at the fraction less than 78 cts - wharfage & truckage on Mr Parker's, would make the difference very trifling - choice parcels of Oil are getting scarce & cannot be had without giving the top of the market - I have engaged the freight of the Oil at 1 1/2 cts - & shall ship it on Monday or Tuesday as the weather may be -

There remains of the
Jos. Maxwell's cargo
500 bbls on hand -

Very truly yours,
W. J. R

New Bedford 22 Nov 1843

Leb. Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

I have an application to insure Ship Baltic of Fairhaven to the amount of \$30,000. for thirty months & reverse, or for the voyage - She is bound to the N West coast will take two seasons here, and cruise for Sperm Oil between the right whale seasons. I will probably not be gone longer than thirty months.

My limits will not allow me to take the risk under 2 1/2 % per ann. and on \$15,000. The owners expect to get it done for less. Please name a prem. and the amt. you will take. The Baltic is an old ship, but is in good order, has been newly

calked, sheathed and coppered - where pieces
of her black streaks have been taken out. Her
top timbers were perfectly sound. Her top is
loose and live oak - She is now fitting and
will sail in about ten days -

Enclosed are firm. notes 154878, 15495

Respectfully yours
(Signed) William S Russell

New Bedford 22. Nov 1843
Messrs Ginnell Miskin & Co
New York
Gent

I have drawn on
you to day at sight, favor J. B. Congdon
Cash. for \$24,572.73/100, for 31563 1/2 gals
crude sperm oil purchased for your account
of F. R. Whitwell at 78c. Ship Jos. Maxwell
cargo Invoice of which is forwarded herewith,
and bill of lading of 59 casks containing
9471 - net gals on board Sloop Pomona
The balance 22032 1/2 gals. is going on board
Sloop Republic - The Pomona is loaded and
is ready to sail, first fair wind. The Republic
will be loaded to day and ready to sail
tomorrow.

Your favor of 20 & 21st insts, are at
hand but came too late to stop the shipment
of the whole 1000 bbls. The Republic was nearly
loaded this morning and I was under obligation
to give her a full load - there is therefore no
alternative, but to let it go forward -

According to your directions, I purchased
this morning the balance of the Jos. Maxwell
cargo about 500 bbls at 78c. Since the arrival
of the Steamer, a purchaser from Boston
has bought 1000 bbls of J. A. Parker at 78c. said
to be for shipment to London - and W. R.
Rodman has purchased the whole stock at
Westport at 79c. about 2000 bbls, and a small

parcel of extra head at 80¢. The Oil market at this moment is in a perfect fever. The excitement however had not reached Fairhaven this morning when I bought the 500 bbls. and I consider myself fortunate in securing it -

I cannot find there are any letters in town by the steamer which will warrant a rise in sperm oil. The excitement will die away probably in a few days, and it may again be purchased at 78¢.

The Republic not having quite all her oil on board I could not get a bill of lading signed & forward to day, and presume it will not be necessary in effecting insurance -

I am respectfully yours
(Signed) William S. Russell

New Bedford 24 Nov 1843
Ginnell Minturn & Co
Gent^l

Enclosed is bill of lading of 107 casks Sperm Oil on board Sloop Republic - Say 702 bbls both vessels the Republic & Pomona are ready to start, the moment there is any favorable change in the weather. To day we have thick rainy weather & a strong breeze from SW & there is no probability of their being able to leave before tomorrow - I fear they may be too late for the prize Albert. & have urged upon the Captains the necessity of making all possible dispatch - The Republic & Pomona are first rate vessels & can be insured here as low as any of the packets

There has been no sale of Sperm Oil since my last - I have heard of an offer of 78¢ for 1500 bbls which was declined, but the same parcel was held at 80¢ at the time the current price was 75¢ -

If you want more oil, you had better I think authorize me to buy at 78¢, whenever I can get it of prime quality. It might lie here & be shipped as you

went it - There is no probability it will be less this winter - At present I know of no parcel which can be bought at 78¢ - All the holders are now asking 80¢, but there are no purchasers at that price -

I remain very truly yours
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 27. Nov. 1843 -

Messrs. Grinnell, Minster & Co
New York

Dear Sir,

Your favor of 24th inst is at hand. At your request I send you herewith gauges of the casks of Sperm Oil on board the ship Pomona. The Jos. Maxwell's cargo was refilled to the usual quantity pumped off after I bought it. It had been laying on the wharf ^{more than} nearly a month & shrunk 1½%. It did not need cooping generally. There has been so much wet weather, that the casks had not shrunk. Such as needed cooping, were cooped after they had been filled, & if they were reduced in gauge, then must of course be the same quantity of Oil - It has always been the custom here, to fill the casks, & take out the warts, before it is cooped. If they are recooped first to regauge the casks - All these matters you may rely on my attending to, in purchasing oil for you - ~~The 500 bbls Oil remaining here~~

The Republic & Pomona left last Saturday with a fair wind, and as I trust have arrived ~~by this time~~ today if they did not yesterday & will be in time for the Prince Albert -

The 500 bbls Oil remaining here must be shipped the latter part of this week to save the wharfage. I will put off receiving it, as you request as long as I can - The only sale of Sperm Oil since I last wrote you is 70 bbls, a Mate's share at 78¢ -

Ship James Munroe arrived on yesterday with 1400 bbls Sperm & 1400 bbls whale Oil from N.W. coast -

Respectfully yours
W. J. R.

New Bedford 29 Nov. 1843

Let. Cook & Esq
New York
D^r Sir

Above you have an order for insurance on ship Baltic for \$15000 - Your favors of 25th & 28th inst are at hand -

I have not been able to see Mr. Hurland this morning, but shall in the course of the day & try to get rid of the Insurance on ship Lyon of Prov. It did not occur to me that you might be full on her - the same risk was taken here at 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ % - that office is now full or her -

Yr obt Servt
W. J. R.

Since writing the foregoing the Lyon has been taken off my hands at 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ % -
W. J. R.

New Bedford 1st Dec 1843 -

Let. Cook & Esq
New York
D^r Sir

Grinnell, Maturin & Co
Gen^{ls}

Since I last wrote you about 1500 bbls Sperm Oil has been sold at 78¢ - for manufacturing, of not very prime quality - The market is very firm at 78. One of the largest holders asks 80¢. I had refused an offer of 78¢ - the stock on hand is estimated at about 10000 bbls.

I have been called upon to take the delivery of the 500 bbls remaining here purchased for your A/c & shall receive it tomorrow & ship it on Monday next -

Very truly yours,
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 4th Decr 1843
Messrs Gunnell Maturau & Co
New York
Gent^{rs}

Herewith you have Invoice
and bill of lading of 116 Casks Crude Sperm Oil
shipped per Ship Corinthian, being the balance
of Ship Jos. Maxwell's cargo amounting to
\$12019.41/100 - I have this day drawn on you
at sight, favor Rubber & ^{cash} for that amount
say \$12019.41/100 - The Corinthian will be loaded
to day and ready to sail tomorrow, as the
Corinthian has not hitherto stood so high as the
other packets, I would mention that she
was repaired last summer at an expense of upwards
of \$2000 - as is now considered as safe as any of
the packets -

All the whole bone of Ship Jos.
Maxwell's cargo was sold this morning at 50 cts -
and 500 bbls of her whale Oil at 64 cts. I have
had but no transaction in Sperm Oil since I
last wrote you -

Very truly yours
(Signed) Wm. T. Russell

New Bedford 4th Decr 1843
Lebedeu Cook & Co
Dear Sir

I have an application from
Mr Saml Rodman for insurance on whaling Ship
Asia of Haver at and from Haver for N W coast
and until her return to Haver -

Please name a premium for the whole voyage
and a prom per annum - The Asia is an
American built ship and has been in the whale
fishery for many years - Mr Rodman cannot give
any particulars respecting her but believes her to be
in good order for the voyage - She sailed from
Haver last August -

Not having taken any of the French whalers

I do not like to take the responsibility of
naming a person on this risk — Enclosed you
have prom. notes 15747 Respectfully yours
and 15731 — (Signed) Wm S Russell

New Bedford 4th Dec 1843

Mess Gibson & Co
New York
Gent

Now you have a check on
the Mechanics Bank for \$23.71/100 being the
amt. of your bill of butter —

I will thank you to send me a Tub of
your best butter, say about 40 lbs. by one of the
packets, as soon as convenient — I will not
ask for better than the last firkin —

Respectfully yours
(Signed) Wm S Russell

New Bedford 5th Dec 1843

Saml W Harvey
Buffalo
Dear Cousin

Your favor of 25th ultimo, was
duly recd together with H R Szymon Hys draft
at sight for \$347.40/100 payable in N York —
It being you say amt of Harvey Hys note due 18th
Nov for \$350 less 3/4 % exchange —

I am glad to hear the Underwriters have ac-
cepted the abandonment of Ship Superior & that
you will be able to remit the amt of my claim
on her soon —

I have still debts hanging over me, con-
tracted for Oil purchased & shipped to you — and
I am extremely desirous to liquidate them, and
have no other means of doing it, than the debts due
me in Buffalo, unless I make a sacrifice of my
real estate — I trust you will be able to make
a final close of all the notes left in the hands of
Charles Hauland in the course of this winter

Those having the longest time to run will be due in Feb.
Sperm Oil remains very steady at 78 c & will probably
advance to 80 c, as the cold weather increases -
Whale Oil 40 c -

I remain very truly yours
Yrs J. Russell

New Bedford 8 Decr 1843
Messrs Grinnell Minton & Co
New York
Esqrs

The accounts by the Acadia
steamer of the London Oil Market will rather
tend to cast a damper on the market here. I believe
present prices will be maintained for Sperm Oil
but the holders will be more anxious to sell, ~~and~~
~~consequently a selection of the choicest lots may be~~
~~had which have been held above the market price~~
and will be likely to offer the choicest lots which
have been held at 80 c - above the market price -

The Countess sailed this morning having
been detained by bad weather. I neglected to notice
in the Invoice of Oil shipped by her that no 116 a
barrel is an ullage, having $3\frac{1}{2}$ gals out. The late
~~cold weather I perceive has shrunk the Oil con-~~
~~siderably since it was filled.~~

Respectfully yours
Yrs J. Russell

New Bedford 15 Dec 1843 -
Messrs. Grinnell Mixture & Co
Gent^l

Since my last there has been considerable sales of crude Spum Oil - In addition to the report in the shipping list of last Tuesday of the sales of 2350 bbls, there has been other sales since, to the amount of 1300 bbls, all at 78 cts cask - and all ~~sublime~~ for manufacturing - The stock on hand now is about 9000 bbls on both sides of the River, including the last arrivals here -

Respectfully yours
W. J. R -

New Bedford 15 Dec 1843

Lebedu Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

I have forwarded policy no 11884 to obtain your sanction to the transfer on the back of it, from Dan Flanders to Thomas Knowles - I have send me Mr Flanders prom note and I will exchange it for Mr Knowles -

Mr Knowles is quite as responsible a man as Mr Flanders -

Herewith you have three orders for insurance on Ship Congress and outfit amounting to \$13,200 -

Respectfully
your obt servant
(Signed) John T Russell

New Bedford 18 Decr. 1843.
Lehman Cook & Co
New York
Sir

The Policies on Ship Congress are at hand - You omitted to send Mr Hardes prem. note no 11884 to be exchanged for Mr Knowles note on ap of the transfer of interest in Ship Seine -

Very respectfully
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 20 Decr 1843

L Cook & Co
New York
Sir

I have forwarded herewith policy no 13482 for your approval of the transfer endorsed on the back of it -

You have enclosed prem. notes no 15864 15865 - 15885 - There is one prem. note on Ship Congress behind - the insured being out of town -

I am happy to hear you will make a good dividend - Please inform me what it is as soon as ascertained - As the enquiry is frequently made "What will be your dividend this year" -

Your obt Servt
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 22 Dec 1843
Messrs. Grinnell, Minton & Co
New York
Gent^l,

Since my last on the subject of the
Sperm Oil market, there has been sale to a considerable
extent at 78¢ & some parcels of about 600 bbls, considered
superior at 79¢ - The stock is very much reduced
there not being to exceed 3000 bbls, crude Sperm Oil
for sale at the current prices, say 78 to 79¢ - The
Minerva, Smyth, & Columbus' cargoes will be
manufactured by the owners - The Jas. Munroe's
cargo at Fairhaven is held for higher prices & are
not included in the 3000 bbls -

The advice by the Hibernian cause still more
firmness in the market - A choice parcel of Sperm
Oil could not be bought at less than 79 to 80¢
at the present moment -

Respectfully yours
W. F. R

New Bedford 1st Jan 1844
Debeden Cook & Co
New York
Dear Sir

Herewith is forwarded for your
approval the transfer of interest in Policy no 8397
Ship Concord & Policy 10567 Ship Emily Morgan -

I have an application for insurance, \$1500
on catching on board a Ship Benja Rush of Warren-
was at Maui 15 May 1843 with 750 bbls, Sperm
Oil all well bound to Japan - then 22 mo out -
will probably be out 2 years longer - It could be
done here at 4% for remainder of the voyage - Not
knowing but you might be full on this ship, I
declined taking the risk until I could hear from
you - With the compliments of the season
I am very truly yours
W. F. R

New Bedford 1st Jan'y. 1844
Messrs. Grinnell Maturin & Co
New York
Gent^ls

The Sales of Crude Spinn Oil
have been very quite extensive last week at 79 to
80 c. The Stock in first hand is now reduced to
about 2100 bbls on both sides of the River. The
price is now very firm at 80 c. —

Very truly yours
Wm J. Russell

Tab. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Sir

New Bedford 3 Jan'y. 1844

I have to trouble you again
for your approval of the transfer of interest in
another Police no 14923 Barge Pier, which is
forwarded herewith —

Your obt^d serv^t —
W. J R

New Bedford 3 Jan'y. 1844
Messrs. Grinnell Maturin & Co
New York
Gent^ls

Your favor of 2nd inst is at hand —
I did not make a contract for the Cedar Logs
you ordered last Summer. The dimensions you
require were not to be had ready cut & cannot
be obtained only when the swamps are frozen. You
did not request me to contract for them to be delivered
this Winter. The dimensions are much larger than
are used by our boat builders & are seldom called
for. The farmers therefore never cut them until they
are expressly ordered. I have no doubt I can
make a contract for the size you require on the
same terms as those I sent you last winter & will
attend to it immediately. I doubt whether Mr

Winslow is aware that Logs 13 to 15 in diam. are more liable to split & are not so tough as boards sawed from smaller Logs - This is the experience of our boat builders, who ought to be the best judges in the world in this matter - The small size Logs which will barely make a board of the width of a streak of a whole boat, such as are generally used for that purpose are to be had at any season of the year, a supply of them always being kept on hand - Perhaps it would be to the interest of Mr Winslow to make these suggestions to him -

No transaction in Sperm Oil since my last holding are very firm at 80 c -

I remain very truly yours
W. J. R.

New Bedford 15 Jan'y. 1844
Lebden Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear

I have forwarded herewith a Schedule of Marine risks taken by me for A/c of the Mutual Safety Ins Co for the year past - Also my A/c showing an amt of ^{\$354.00} ~~\$367.99~~ due me, which you may if you please remit by a check on Boston or authorize me to draw on you for it -

Respectfully yr obt Serv
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 15 Jan'y 1844

Henry Grinnell

New York

Enclosed is my A/c with Yell Ho of charges agst the different Invoices of Sperm Oil purchased for their A/c amtg to \$646.92, which please place to my cr agst the amt due you & others -
Jc - W. J. R.

New Bedford 17 Jan^y. 1844.

Messrs. C. & Francis & Co
New York
Gents

Your bill of subscription to Knickerbocker has been received - Enclosed is five dollars for subscription for the past year, 1843 - I wish it discontinued in future -

Respectfully yours

Wm^t Russell

New Bedford 29 Jan^y 1844

Lebedu Cook Jr
New York

Dear Sir

I have transmitted herewith a schedule of Marine risks taken by the Mechanics Office of this town, which that company propose to have insured - and have requested me to ask you to set a premium upon them and forward your terms to me in the course of the first week in Feb^y - For the last report of the vessels, reference may be had to the Whalmen's shipping list -

I have forwarded an order for insurance on catchings on board Ship Roman and also on Ship Two Brothers - The former will probably arrive next summer - The latter is expected daily

Respectfully yours &c

(Signed) Wm^t Russell

Since writing the foregoing I have to add an order for insurance on catchings on board Ship Gov. Troup - She is supposed to be full and bound home from the Sandwich Islands

You have \$10,000. already on the Gov. Troup - This order will make \$16,000 - I have ventured to go \$1,000 over my limits to accommodate Mr Jones who wanted just that amt done - Other owners of the Gov. Troup want \$3,000[~] \$4000 more insured on catchings. Please say whether you will take that much more - (Signed) Wm^t Russell

New Bedford 9th Feby 1844
Lebedu Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

I have your favors of 2⁸ 3
inst^l covering policies 16148. 16149. 16150. 16140
16141. You will find enclosed five prem. notes
conformable to these numbers, and also prem.
note no 15863. which I have but lately received
the insured having been out of town -

The premium on Policy 13344 & 13563 which
you enquire after were cash premiums and have
been paid, and were overlooked when I forwarded
my account. You will please deduct these
from the foot of the acct.

I have also forwarded policy no 12435
for your approval of a transfer of interest -
would it not be better to authorize me to make
transfers when it can be of no injury to the interest
of the company without transporting the policy
back and forth, informing you when such transfers
are made -

I remain very truly yours.

(Signed) Wm. S. Russell

I find an error in the name of the insured in
policy no 16150. It should be Willard Nye
instead of William Nye - You will please correct
the error -
W. S. R.

New Bedford 9 Feb. 1844

Let. Cook & Co
New York
Sir

I have forwarded herewith a
Schedule of Marine Risks taken by the Mechanics
Office of this place, for which they ask re-insurance -
~~I have been over the list of Ships & marked the premiums~~
^{with a good deal of care}
according to my best judgment and have marked
the premiums as you requested. The premiums are
estimated generally at 2% per ann. or 2% per annum
except for the last year of the voyage ^{when it may} - And Right
Whalers at 2 1/2% per ann. There are various some
according to the quality of the Ship. The size &c &c -
+ I have marked the premiums with a good deal of care
& according to my best judgment, & they have the
approval of a person of ~~some~~ experience in these
matters. I think you may venture to take every
Ship at the prem. named - I perhaps deduct some odd
hundred dollars - But I have no doubt others
have marked lower, and I have no expectation
for some of the N York Office I will take the job -
The Company want all their proposals given in
by the 15th of this mo -

Very truly yours

W. F. Russell

+ This will account for some apparent discrepancies
in the prem, ~~But I have~~

New Bedford 12 Feb'y 1844
Zachariah Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

I have forwarded herewith a copy
a copy of the Statement of the Great Average on
Ship Mount Vernon as made up by Capt Merriken
by which the Officers here have settled - showing
a loss claimed by Clement P Leavelle of \$66.43/100
& by Darr Wood of \$5.34/100 - If you will
authorize me I can draw on you for the amt
& settle the loss with them -

Your favor of 7th inst with the Policies reached
me this morning -

Respectfully
Yr obt Servt
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 19 Feb'y 1844
Zachariah Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

(Your favor of 13th inst is at hand
I have drawn on you to day as you directed for
\$71.77/100 at eight - amt of the average on Ship Mount
Vernon -

You have herewith prom. notes No 16170-16202-
16201 -

I have forwarded Policy No 12236 on Ship
Enterprise of Nantucket for your approval of a
second transfer of it -

Your obt Servt
(Signed) Wm J Russell

I have left proposals for reinsurance at the
Mechanics office - The Directors meet tomorrow
when it will be decided who takes their risks
W. J. R.

Grinnell Minter & Co to W. J. Russell Dr

To 53 Cedar Logs measuring

1539 feet - 12 Cords 3/128

at \$16 per cord

192. "

To measuring Logs

1.50

Wharfage 12 cords @ 15c

1.80

3.30
\$195.30

New Bedford 23 Feby. 1844

Messrs Grinnell Minter & Co

New York

Gent^{rs}

Should you have my bill of
the Cedar Logs ordered by you amounting to \$195.30
for which amount I have this day drawn on you
at sight -

The Logs have been on the wharf some weeks
waiting for the navigation to be opened - Our harbor
is now clear of ice, and the packets will soon be
moving again - and I shall ship them by the first
opportunity -

No transactions have taken place in Sperm
or Whale Oil or Bone since the late arrivals - prices
are nominal and very unsettled -

Very truly
Yours W. J. Russell

New Bedford 23 Feb 1844
Lebedev Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear

Herewith you have prem.
notes n^o 16169 & 16222 - & an order for insurance
on Ship Herald & Ship Archer

A Boston office takes the risks of the Mechan-
ics Office - the terms have not transpired, but I
understand ^{they are} considerably less than our office, or either
of the N York offices -

Respectfully yr obt Serv^t
W. J. Russell

I am writing the above Policy n^o 15116 on
Ship Geo. Porter for A/c of Thos Riddell has been
handed me to forward for your approval of the
transfer of his interest to W R Rodman -

W J R -

New Bedford 27 Feb. 1844
Lebedev Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear

I have rec^d your favor of 24th inst
with the policies -

Mr Riddell ^{says he} will give Mr Rodman's
guarantee to the prem. notes n^o 15116. You will therefore
please return the Policy with the assignment approved
by you - and directing in what manner the guarantee
shall be made - ~~I would suggest that Mr Rodman~~
~~sign the prem. note jointly with Mr Riddell - and not~~
~~endorse it - thereby holding him responsible.~~

I would suggest that you send me the prem. notes
to be signed by Mr Rodman jointly with Mr Riddell -

Has prem. note 10543. Edw C Jones, Ship Iris
can be collected -

Yr obt Serv^t
Wm J Russell

New Bedford 4 March 1844
Capt Jos C Delano
New York
My dear Sir

Will you have the goodness
to pay Blackburn & Bell's Tailors bill in L' post
a grt myself & Gilbert Ant^y to \$16.12.6 -
For that purpose I have sent you herewith a check
on the Phoenix Bank for \$80 - Whether it is a
little more or less than the bill, the difference we
can settle hereafter -

I have ordered on the other side of this sheet
a suit of Clothes from Blackburn & Bell - and
have to beg the favor of you to take charge of
them & pay the bill before you leave L' post, and
I will settle with you on your return here -

Very truly yours
Wm J. Russell

Messrs Blackburn & Bell will please send
me by Capt Delano the following suit of Clothes
A fashionable dress Black coat - a pair of
Black Cops. - Trousers - on fancy pattern dress
vest for Spring wear -

and oblige yours
W. J. R.

New Bedford
4 March 1844 -

New Bedford 8 March 1844
Lebedee Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

Above you have a check
on the Mechanics Bank for \$171.25/100 amt ~~due~~
from Mr Jones for prem. note n^o 10543 -

Herewith I send Poling n^o 10675 for your
approval of Mr Sawtons assignment of it to Mr A
Parker, who will guarantee the payment of the
prem. Note. You will please forward the prem.
note for Mr Parkers guarantee -

Your favor of 29th ult^o was duly rec^d. Mr
Riddell being out of town, I ~~am~~ ~~am~~ ~~am~~
I cannot return his prem. note with Mr Rodman as
guaranteed by this mail -

Yr obt Servt

W. T. Russell

Ship Hope Poling n^o 8271. arrived 6th inst;

New Bedford 11 March 1844
Lebedee Cook & Co
New York
Sir

Herewith I return you Mr
Riddells prem. note n^o 15116, guaranteed by Wm
R Rodman - Ship Condor & Ship Charles Drew
both arrived yesterday.

Yr obt Servt

W. T. Russell

Ship Condor poling n^o 8397 - \$7000

do 8446 6000

12903 150 \$13150

Ship Chat Drew poling n^o 11402 \$1625

do 11403 1625 \$3250

New Bedford 13 March 1844.
Messrs Grinnell Minturn & Co
New York
Gents

Above you have bill of lading
of 53 Cedar Logs on board the Chr Industry -
Three of the Logs are of small size such as are used
by our boat builders, which you ordered as a sample -
Some of the Logs are larger than the dimensions ordered -
It is difficult to get them precisely of the dimensions
required - but they are sound & handsome growth
& I trust will suit Mr Winslow -

Very truly yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 14 March 1844
Mr Saml W Hawes
Buffalo, N.Y.
Dear Cousin

Your favor of 3rd inst, covering
H R Symon & Co's draft payable in New York for
\$348.26/100 is received - being as you say amt of Hawes
& Co's Note dated 18 May ^{at 9 mos} 1843 for \$350. less prem. for draft -
I am very much disappointed in not receiving any
thing for Ac of your Note for \$2249.20, which was
due the 18th of last month - You will recollect that
I stated my necessities to you ^{when you were here last winter} & that you promised
to remit me half of it in Feb'y - If it is possible to
I hope you will use every exertion to pay that note
at as early a day as possible - I have still debts
hanging over ^{me} contracted on Ac of Oil sent to you
which have been continuing along from time to time
until I am ashamed to ask for further indulgence -
and am depending on money due from you to pay
them off - The last sale of Sperm Oil was at 86¢
some pretend to ask 90¢ - Whale Oil 35¢ -
with much regard
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 15 March 1844
Lebedu Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

Your favors of 11th & 12th inst
were duly received -

For fear that you might think the
enclosed order for insurance is at too low a prem.
I would say by way of explanation, that the
Bhering is a first rate vessel and will proceed
direct to Boston without stopping by the way for
recruits as the whale ships usually do - and besides
I believe you will be obliged to put the prem. on
whale ships generally from the Sandwich Islands at
home at 1 1/4 % - I have hitherto asked 1 1/2 % & have
not been able to get a single risk at that prem. this
season - All the N Bedford offices take them at 1 1/4 %
The passage is made in 4 to 6 mo. which will give
at the rate of 2 1/2 % per annum & upwards -
The N. Bedford Mutual have taken \$1300 on Oil
& Bone on board the Bhering at the same say 1 1/4 % -

I return herewith prem. note no 10675
guaranteed by Jno A Parker -

Yr obt servt
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 18 March 1844
Lebedu Cook & Co
New York
Dear Sir

I have received your favors
of 16th inst with policy on Barge Bhering, & herewith send
you the prem. note no 16418.

I have made the inquiries of Capt Pinkham
of Ship Two Brothers as you requested - He says, that
the Brig ~~Jamies~~ ~~Munroe~~ of Plymouth was condemned
at Bahia & sold in consequence of her being rotten -
Capt Shickland of Brig Jamies Munroe of Plymouth
told him that his vessel was condemned & sold at Bahia,
in consequence of being rotten - That he had met with no

accident or heavy gale of wind & that it was taken
of among the Americans at Bahia without any reserve
that she was a poor old rotten thing - Capt Pinkham
left Capt Strickland at Bahia ready to leave for U.S.
first opportunity. He wanted to take passage with Capt
Pinkham, but he had no room for him -

Capt W. C. Rogers had gone to Madagascar, had left
his family at Bahia & would return there -

Capt Pinkham heard nothing of Capt Stanhope of
Bridgford - That vessel might have been there among
the large number of vessels in port without hearing of
her - his knowledge -

I have forwarded herewith policy no 10512
on ship Wilmington & Liverpool packet, to be amended
giving liberty to ship home from Sandwich Island
the whole crew on board - You will please make
the necessary endorsement on the policy granting that
liberty & return it to me -

Respectfully yours
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 3 Apr 1844

Isidore Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

I have forwarded Tho Riddell's
policy on ship Emerald no 15731 - transfer to John
Hauland for your approval - when you return it
please forward the prem. note to be guaranteed by
Mr Hauland -

You have also herewith prem. notes no 16276 &
16277 -

Respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 10 Apr 1844

Mrs. Hill & Bennetts
Toledo, Ohio
Gentⁿ

Your favor of 29th ult^o giving
a schedule of Taxes on my land in Lucas County
& advising of your having drawn on me for \$34.52/100
being amt of the taxes for 1843. is received -

Your draft was presented to day & paid, and I
am much obliged to you for attending to this
business. and request the favor of you to pay the
taxes in future for this year when due & draw on ~~you~~
me for the amt & expenses, and your draft shall be
punctually paid

I am respectfully

Your obt Servt

Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 24 Apr 1844

Lebener Cook Jr Esq
New York
Sir

Herewith you have Thos
Riddells prom. note on Ship Emerald no 15731 -
payment guaranteed by John Houlston - And
an order for insurance on catchings of Ship Copia -

Respectfully yrs

Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 13 May 1844

Lebener Cook Jr Esq
New York
Sir

Enclosed is an order for insurance
on whaling ship Wm & Eliza from Rio to N York
for which port she has Oil on freight, or she may come
to New Bedford. She has also some Oil of her own
catching. The last letter from Rio the W & E was
left there to sail in a few days & may be daily

expected -

I have annexed the names of persons who
are entitled to certificates of scrip, which please
forward to me to distribute as soon as convenient -

I am respectfully yours
Wm J Russell

Persons entitled to scrip in New Bedford

Asa R. Nye
Sam Rodman
Wm C Brownell

Levi Kullback
Chapman Bonney

James Lescant

Dart Butler &
Abn. Allen - }

Thomas Riddell

Jno A Parker

Edw C Jones

Tim G Coffin

Hathaway & Lee

Gideon Allen

Dart Perry

Calvin C. Adams

Dart Wood

Chas W Morgan

Abn Barker

J B ~~Wood~~ Richmond

James Rider

Thomas Bennett

Alex Gibbs -

New Bedford 15 May 1844
Saml H Taylor Esq
Principal of Philips Academy
Andover Mass.

Dear Sir

I propose sending
my son Henry to the Academy at a late
of about 14 years of age to the Academy at
Andover -

Have the goodness to inform me
whether he can be admitted, and at what
time - the terms of tuition & board and all
necessary expenses per quarter -

and oblige your obt Servt
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 20 May 1844
Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Shew you have a check on the
Phoenix Bank for \$785 = for the following prem.
notes collected -

n^o 11402 Wm Knights 66.25

8446 Saml Rodman 301.25

8397 Edw Merrill 351.25

11403 Mark B Palmer 66.25 \$785 -

Your favois of 14th & 15th insts are received
the former covering policy n^o 16778 on Ship Wm & Eliza
& notes for collection. The latter ~~former~~ certificate of script -
Prem. note n^o 8271 remains unpaid. Wilcox &
Richman have made a claim of average on Cargo
^{about 150 bbls} for Oil stow in a gale of wind, by the ship being thrown
on her beam ends - The officers here on that ship
have not yet made a settlement with them, I shall
wait to see what they do. Their whole claim on
your office would not exceed \$100 -

You placed me in an awkward predicament
by not sanctioning the prem. of 10% which I fixed
on Ship Wm & Eliza - I made it binding with

Mr Arnold & assured him I was authorized to do so -
The effect will be that my authority in future will be
disturbed - He has signed the prem. note, which I
now transmit with the understanding that if you do not
consider me authorized to make insurance binding
here, that he will pay $1\frac{1}{8}\%$, otherwise he will expect
to pay no more than 1% when the prem. note is due -
Mr Arnold applied for insurance on the Wm & Eliza
when he heard of her at the Sandwich Islands, & I
named $1\frac{1}{2}\%$, but he neglected unintentionally to have
it done, when he heard of her at Rio. He applied
again & I gave the prem. at 1% - believing you would
be satisfied with $\frac{2}{3}$ of the prem. from Sandwich
Islands, when $\frac{2}{3}$ of the risk was up -

One per cent from Rio is certainly very low, but
yet it is high compared with $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ for Sandwich
Islands - It will not do to compare whaling risks
with Merchantmen - They are 50% lower & yet time
has proved them profitable -

I am respectfully yours
Wm. J. Russell

I ought to say further, that I did not consider
the risk on the Wm & Eliza a desirable one - and I
would not have taken it for any other than those
who generally give me the premiums, when they
want insurance -

New Bedford 28th May 1844

Messrs. Grinnell Minton & Co
New York. Gentl

The Ship Martha was adver-
tised as you requested in the Mercury & Evening
Bulletin for which I paid one dollar each - say
two dollars -

There has been no material change
in the price of Sperm & Whale Oil & Bone of late
The stock accumulates - There is about 7000 bbls
Sperm Oil on hand - 12,000 bbls, whale & 650,000 bbls
Bone - Most of the Sperm is stored for the season
The price is nominally 92 c, but some small parcels

have been sold at 88¢ - Whale Oil by the cargo
34¢ - selected for manufacturing 35¢ - about
3000 bbls rather dark sold a few days since at 33 1/4 ¢ -
Whale Bone has been sold at 27 & 28¢, but cannot
be bought now at those prices - the large holders
are expecting high prices next fall & decline
naming any price at present -

I am very truly yours

Yrms J. Russell

New Bedford 22 May 1844

W. T. Jennings Esq
New York
Gent

Should you have a Bank check
on the Phoenix Bank for \$21. the amt of your bill
against me - My absence from home when your
letter came to hand is the cause of its not being for-
warded before

Respectfully yours

W. T. Russell

New Bedford 28 May 1844

Capt Calvin C Adams
Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard
Dear Sir

Enclosed is your certificate of
share for \$18. 82/100 in the Mutual Life Ins. Co
of New York -

Respectfully yours

Yrms J. Russell

New Bedford 28 May 1844
Lebedee Cook & Co
New York
Dear Sir

Enclosed you have an order for
\$12000 insurance on Ship Hope & outfit -
Also prom. note no 16662 - And Policy no 10567
for your approval of a transfer of another third
of Edwin & Barney Ad, then interest -
Please say what your scrip sells for at the
present time - and what you consider its value -
Very truly yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 1st June 1844
Lebedee Cook & Co
New York
Dear Sir

Your favor of 29th inst is at hand.
The Ship Wm & Eliza did not see her cargo
at Rio - she retained the same cargo she started
with from Sandwich Islands -

Herewith is forwarded an application for
insurance on Bergen Lark, from Mr F. J. Hathaway
please name a prem. by return of mail - The
vessel I presume is known to you - we know nothing
about her here -

You have also herewith prom. note 16867
Ship Hope -
Assured you have a list of risks, terms &
rates -

Respectfully yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 4 Jun 1844
Lebedev Cook Jr
New York
Dear

Your favor of yesterday's date is at hand -

Enclosed is a check on the Phoenix Bank for \$257.50/100 being the amt of

J. Houlara & Co. prom. note 16418	151.25
Willard Nye do 16150	106.25
	<u>\$257.50</u>

The other prom. notes will be due towards the last of this month -

Mr Francis T Hathaway will take a policy on Barque Lark for \$12,000 - vessel valued at \$12,000 - on your terms say $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ for one year warranting $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ - if she does not proceed north of Guayaquil to 4% if she does - with liberty to renew the policy for another year if then absent from U.S. Top if any payable to him or order -

Respectfully yours
F. T. R

New Bedford 18 Jun 1844
Lebedev Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear

Herewith you have an order for insurance on Catchings of Ship Rob Edwards for \$6,000 and on Brig Tarillion of Edgartown for \$1,100 - Also is forwarded prom. note no 16923 Back Lark for \$481.25/100 -

My account for last year remains unsettled - ~~has the goodness to please have it adjusted before~~ it as soon as convenient & before it is too much blended with this year's business -

Respectfully yours
F. T. Russell

New Bedford 26 June 1844
Lehman Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Herewith you have prem.
note no 17010 Ship Robt Edwards & no Brig
Tavilion

The old Com Ins. Co (Capt Crocker, has
lately commenced upon the mutual principle. &
have put the premiums down to $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ for two
years - do you choose to follow them -

I, then any scrap due for a Bourn, and
Abm Barker -

Yr obt Servt
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 2 July 1844
Lehman Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Above is a check on Mechanics
Bank for \$118.50/100. for the following prem. notes -
no 148 Eder & Jones, Ship Yoor Troup - 91.25
12852 for Henry Haulera. Mepenger 27.25
\$118.50

There is another note of Mr Jones on the Yoor Troup
no 11290 for \$251.25. which is due, & has not been forwarded
for collection - Policy 12853, Ship for Meigs, ter-
minated 20th ult -

Herewith is forwarded an order for insurance
on Ship Cicero & two on Brig Tavilion of Edgartown -

Your favor of 29th ult was duly received -
Will you make an exception in your rates of
prem. for two ships fitting by Eder & Jones, The
Yoor Troup & Mobile. and James Arnolds
new Ship the "Arnolda" - I write them at $4\frac{1}{2}\%$
for two years - They are all first rate risks, & will
your office will have the preference at that prem. -
The Mobile has been rebuilt & is about equal to
a new ship - Respectfully yrs W. J. Russell

New Bedford 8 July 1844 -
Lebedu Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear

Above is a check on the Phoenix
Bank for \$251.25. amt of Edw. C Jones prem note
n^o 11290. Ship your Troup for that amt,

You have herewith an order for Insurance
on Ship your Troup for \$9000. I shall not
be able to get \$15000 on this ship. The other
owners preferring to give 3 1/2 % for 18 months to other
offices. I do not consider myself at liberty to
take a risk for 18 months at less than 3 3/4 %

Prem. note n^o 17070, Ship Cicero is enclosed -

Respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 11 July 1844
Lebedu Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear

Above is a check on The
Mechanics Bank for \$208.75/100. for the following
prem. notes collected -

n ^o 8274. Asa R. Nye Ship Elizabeth	126.25
13842 L. Eddy Ship Motezuma	21.25
13301 Butts & Smith Same	61.25
	<u>\$208.75</u>

Herewith is forwarded a prem. notes n^o 17071 and
17072. Brig Pavilion -

There is an average claimed on Ship Good
Return, amounting to nearly the amt of the prem.
It appears to be just & is allowed by the Office
here, shall I settle it on the same terms as the
New Bedford Office & deduct it from the prem. notes
Your favors of 9th & 10th inst are at hand -

Respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 15th July 1844

Zebedee Cook Jr Esq

New York

Dear Sir

I have returned herewith Policy no 17102. Ship your Troup to have added at the request of Mr Jones' Libut to sell catching, or ship home catchings & bring home cargo or freight, without detriment to the policy. This libut is given to the same ship by the Sun Mutual. - It is not objected to by the Office, here when required -

Your favor of 13th inst is ^{very much} at hand - The only evidence at hand here, that ~~the crew~~ all on board the Orbit were asleep when she was lost, is the statement of Capt Swain of Ship Isaac Howland (with whom Capt Gardner of the Orbit came passenger from the Pacific,) made in the presence of Eder^d Robinson of the firm of J. Howland & Co. That he (Capt Gardner reportedly ^{told Capt Swain} said) during the passage that all hands were asleep when the ship went on show. ~~This is so~~ I have not been able to see Mr Robinson this morning, but I have no doubt he will recollect the conversation. ~~But~~ This second hand evidence can be of no avail to you. But if Capt Swain is disposed to tell the truth, by writing to your agent at Nantucket. If you can get the same statement from him now by writing to your agent at Nantucket. Capt Swain I understand am informed is now at home at Nantucket -

Respectfully yours

Y^{rs} M^r J. Russell

New Bedford 24 July 1844
Lebedu Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Below is a remittance of \$185
amt of the following prem. Notes collected

11738. W. C. Brownell Ship Cicero	31.25
11698 Lem Hallack	61.25
11737 Oliver Swain	31.25
11699 Oliver Barney	61.25
	<u>\$185.</u>

You will find enclosed prem. note 17102. Edw^d
C Jones. Sh. Good Troup -

Prem. note 11476. Ship Liverpool is due
& has not been forwarded for collection -

The prem. note on Ship Enterprise of
Nantucket signed by Jno Cook is due - The policy
having been transferred to G Hathaway of this place
will be p^d here by him -

Very respectfully

Yrs^{mt} J. Russell

New Bedford 26 July 1844
Lebedu Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

for two years & no rate

I am offered 4 1/2 % prem. on

Ship Good Return & outfit bound to N W Coast
~~said~~ The Ship is in good order & is a very fair
risk - The ~~other~~ agents of Office here have taken her
at this prem. - If you like to take the risk on these
terms send me if you please by return of mail
a policy for James H Howland on Ship & outfit
for \$3700 and for John T Taber \$1900. proportion-
ably on each - Ship valued at \$14,000 Outfit \$16000

Respectfully Yours

Yrs^{mt} J. Russell

New Bedford 29 July 1844 -
Lebedev Cook & Co
New York
Dear

Your favor of 27th inst is at hand.
Enclosed you have prem. notes 17204 \$86.75/100
& 17205 \$167.75/100 Ship Good Return -
You have not forwarded prem. 11476. Ship Liverpool
for collection - Nor for Cook, prem. note on Ship
Enterprise of Nantucket, payable here -

Respectfully yours
Jm^{rs} Russell

New Bedford 2 Aug^r 1844
Lebedev Cook & Co
New York
Dear

Mr F. S. Hathaway has applied
to me for insurance on cargo of Ship Floratio from
Canton & offer 1 1/2 % on \$30,000 - As the premium
was 1 3/4 % on the former voyage of this Ship I did
not feel at liberty to accept of this offer, although
the other N York agents here have taken a large
amt at 1 1/2 % - They ^{wanted to make it by doing consignment} would not wait to get an
answer from you, but would apply to the Boston
office - Please instruct me at what prem. I may
take the China risks in future -

A new prem. has just appeared for the
whales 5 1/4 % for 30 months - I have lost the risk
on the Mobile, she being taken by the Sea Mutual
& other offices at that rate - If you wish to continue
to insure whales from this port, you had better give
me some discretionary power - I allow me to take
some of the best risks as low as other agents -

I am respectfully yours
Jm^{rs} Russell

Since writing the foregoing Mr Hathaway
has called again & says he will wait until I hear from
you - You may therefore send me a policy by
return of mail if you will accept of his offer, for

Cargo of
\$30,000 on Ship Horatio at & from Canton to New
York or a port of discharge in the U States. at $1\frac{1}{2}\%$
Ypsm^t J. Russell

New Bedford 5 Aug^t 1844
Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Shown is a check on
for \$152.50. being the amt collected for the following
prem. notes -

11700	Dart Wood Ship Cicero	31.25
11476	Dart Butter	Copies 121.25
		<u>\$152.50</u>

I wrote you on the 2^d inst that Mr Francis
S Hathaway had offered $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ on Cargo of Ship
Horatio at & from Canton to a port of discharge
in the U States I requested you if you accepted of his
offer to send a policy for \$30,000. The answer was
due by yesterday's mail, not having received any
answer I conclude you have declined the offer -

Respectfully yours
Ypsm^t J. Russell

New Bedford 9 Aug^t 1844
Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Your favor of 3^d inst enclosing
policy on cargo of Horatio per Courton's Express
did not come to hand until the 7th inst. It has
happened that the delay is of no consequence. - I now
enclose the prem. note on that vessel n^o 17239
for \$451.25/100 -

Respectfully y^o ob^t Serv^t
Ypsm^t J. Russell

New Bedford 13. Augt. 1844 -
Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York
D^r Sir

Herewith I have forwarded
check on Mechanics Bank for \$801.25 for. being
amt of Prem. note collection n^o 12466, Ship Margaret
Rait.

Respectfully
Yours obt Servt
J^m T. Russell

New Bedford 24. Augt 1844
Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York
D^r Sir

Herewith is an order for Insurance
on Barque Dromo for \$6875. a good vessel & in
good order & an experienced Captain.

I have forwarded policy 17205. Ship Good
Return Transferred by Jas. H. Howland to J^m T
Taber for your approval of the transfer. please
return with it Mr Howland's note. to be exchanged
for Mr Taber's note. the latter is perfectly responsible
& the exchange may be made in perfect safety to your
Office.

Very respectfully
J^m T. Russell

New Bedford 27 Aug 1844
Lebedev Cook & Co
New York
Dear Sir

Above you have a remittance
of \$304.33/100. for the following prem. notes -
Asa Lawton n^o 10675 Ship Draper 293.75
J^{no} S. Taber 8579 Good Return 301.25
Deduct loss on Ship 295.59 5.66
Jas H. Howland n^o 8580 Same 251.25
Deduct loss 246.33 4.92
\$304.33

Your favor of 26th inst is at hand. Enclosed
is prem. note n^o 17342 Berque Drymo. and n^o 17205
Ship Good Return. The latter exchanged for Jas H
Howland's note on acc of transfer of policy -

I have made inquiry of the former owner of Brig
James Munro, who sold her to the concern in Plymouth -
respecting her repairs ~~here~~ - He says she was thoroughly
repaired here about seven years ago - was stripped to
below her wales, all the ceiling taken out & every
rotten timber replaced with new - entire new top,
new wales & new deck - and thinks it is impossible
she could have been so rotten as represented -
I will make further inquiries of the carpenters who
repaired her & get all the information I can respecting
her & write you again - The statement which
Capt ~~Jas~~ Tinkham made ^{to me} ~~when I questioned him~~
& which I transmitted to you was ~~taken down~~ ^{as the}
~~of~~ noted in a mem. at the time & was precisely
as he told it - Whether Capt Tinkham was actuated
by any improper motives, I cannot say - He is a
respectable Ship Master & has the confidence of
his employers - He is now absent on a voyage -

Respectfully yours
J^m T. Russell

New Bedford 28. Aug. 1844 -
Lebedev Cook & Co
New York
Sir

Enclosure is a recommendation to employ the insurance offices in New York who have agencies in New Bedford to employ Capt Wood as an inspector of vessels for this port. The recommendation expresses no more than is strictly true in regard to Capt Wood's qualifications. Have the goodness to show it to the Pres. of the Sun Mutual, Great Mutual & American & inform me whether they & you will agree to allow him \$100 each for his services -

Yours obt servt
J. Russell

New Bedford 31 Aug 1844
Lebedev Cook & Co
New York
Dear Sir

Herewith is remittance of \$170.74/100 dollars, amt collected for premium note 12853. Ship Jos. Briggs \$151.25 and additional prem. of 2 mos @ 12 ct @ 3% for 18 months \$19.49/100 making \$170.74/100 -

Very respectfully
J. Russell

New Bedford 2 Sept 1844.
Messrs. Murphy & Howe
Jonesville
Hillsdale County
Michigan

Copy of a note handed Mr Murphy while
in New Bedford -

Messrs. Murphy & Howe have herewith
a schedule of my land in Michigan & Ohio -
They will please have it examined, & give me
a particular description of the ^{quality of the} land & the value
of each lot per acre at the present time in the market -
You also have herewith a agreement
completion on my part
to sell Luther Hammond of Roubidoux the E 1/2 of
NW 1/4 of Sec. 10 - T 8 S. R 2 W containing 80 acres
in Hillsdale county, ~~completion on my part~~ which
you will please see completion on the part of
Mr Hill -

I have authorized Messrs Hill & Bennett
of Toledo to pay taxes on my land in Lucas
county - I wish you to enquire whether they
have attended to it & if not I request you
will pay them, and also taxes on my land in
Seneca county & draw on me for the same
& all expenses -

Very respectfully
Wm T. Russell

New Bedford
2 Sept. 1844

New Bedford 17 Sept 1844
Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Enclosed is an order for
Insurance on Ship Mostophilis -

The Carpenter who repaired Brig James Munroe
being absent I have not been able to get from him
the particulars respecting the repairs of that vessel -
But I learn from other sources, that the statements
I gave you in my letter of 27th ulto. are essentially
correct -

Prem. notes 11250 & 11251 on Ship Rosman
are due - prem. notes 11883, 11884, 11885 Ship Teine
will be due 30th inst -

Respectfully yours
Yours J. Russell

New Bedford 18 Sept 1844
Elkanah Morton Esq

Digby, Nova Scotia

My dear Kinsman

Your note addressed to
Judge Davis of Boston dated 8 July, making the
inquiry whether Lydia Russell is yet numbered
with the living, has been placed in my hands to
reply to - My dear Mother about 3 years having
died the 11th Sept 1841 aged nearly 81 years, after a
brief illness & in the full possession of her faculties
I am the only son she ever had - I have had five
sisters, all of them bound to be married women -
only two of them are now living viz Lydia Hoain
& Catharine B. Anthony - The former lost her only
child a promising young man this summer -
The latter is a widow with four sons - I am 55 years
old & have a family of two sons & one daughter
the eldest 20 years of age & the youngest 14 years

My Uncle William & Elkanah Tallman
are now at my side to assist me in giving an account

of the Tallman family -

Seth Tallman the eldest of my Grandfather's Tallmans family will be 87 next November - he is a widower with one son & two daughters -

William Tallman will be 83 this month he has four sons & two daughters all married -

Elkanah Tallman was 81 last month he has two daughters living, one of which married a son of Judge Davis & is now a widow with six sons -

Mary Haaves the only daughter of my Grandfather's family now living is 77 - She has been a widow about ten years - has two daughters & two sons all married - She is now on a visit to her son in Buffalo on Lake Erie, 600 miles from home -

Timothy Tallman the youngest of the family is about 75 - He has one daughter a widow & has been a widower many years -

This comprises all my Grandfather's family now living - They are all in comfortable circumstances, and notwithstanding their advanced ages are all enjoying good health - Uncle Seth in particular retains his buoyancy of spirits remarkably - And they are all still fond of a good joke, for which I presume you know the Tallman family have always been rather famous -

The deceased members of the family are my Mother Lydia Russell - Elizabeth Perry Hannah Mason & Charles Tallman - The latter died about 40 years ago - My Mother's death is the last in the family -

My father Gilbert Russell died in 1829 aged 69 - His death was occasioned by the accidental upsetting of his carriage -

To show you how smart Uncle Seth & William are, I will mention their having made a journey to Plymouth this summer in their chairs driving themselves - They were hospitably entertained by Mr. Morton Davis & returned

delighted with their visit - while there they visited
the place where their mother was born -

Elkanah is the owner of the homestead farm
of his father, but lives in town - The farm is about
two miles from town & remains much the same as
it was at my Grandfather's death - but may in
time, should the town go on increasing, as fast as
of late years, be divided into house lots -

New Bedford has upwards of 15,000 inhabitants
& is rapidly increasing - The whale fishery is the
chief business of the place & is carried on here to a
greater extent than any other port in the U States
and is the third port in point of tonnage in the U States
only Boston & New York having more tonnage
of shipping -

You intimate in your note to Judge Davis
that you are much inclined to visit New Bedford
this season - It would give your relatives great
pleasure to see you here at any time - Uncle
William & Elkanah who are now with me
while I am writing, desire me to say, that they
would be very happy to see you, & we all assure
you of a hearty welcome -

With kind regards to yourself & family
I am your affectionate friend
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 25 Apr 1844

Lebedee Cook Jr Esq

New York

Dear Sir

Your favors of 18th & 19th insts
with policies & prem. notes for collection were duly
recd. Herewith I remit check on the Phoenix
Bank for \$152.50 for the following prem. notes collected
no 11250. Geo. Tappan Ship Roman - 76.25
11251. M B Palmer - same 76.25
\$152.50

There is another note of Mr Tappan no 16149 for
\$26.25. Ship Roman - which has not been forwarded
for collection - Prem. notes on Ship Seine will be
collected in a few days - Capt Bennetts wants the
indulgence of a short time until he sells his Gov.
or his note for premiums on Barge Rajah which I
have granted -

You will find enclosed prem. notes
no 17449 & 17454. Ship Mastpelin -

Also an order for \$6500 insurance on
Barge Rajah -

Respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 8 Oct. 1844

Lebedee Cook Jr Esq

New York

Dear Sir

Your favor of 26th ult with
enclosures was duly received -

Below you have a remittance of \$539 ³/₁₀₀
for the following prem. notes collected -

11883	Rodney French	Ship Seine	170		
	Extra prem.	4 mo 18 d.	<u>43.11</u>		213.11
11884	Dan Flinders	Seine	76.25		
	Extra prem.	same time	<u>19.08</u>		95.33
11885	Thos Knowles	Seine	68.75		
	Extra prem	same	<u>17.24</u>		85.99
					<u>394.43</u>

Amount brought forward .	394.43
16149 Geo. Tappan. Ship Roman.	26.25
10047 Henry Jackson } - Ship Jno & Edward	101.25
Jas. Munroe }	
Extra prem. 5 mos 4 ds -	17.10
	118.35
	<u>\$539.03</u>

Policy 11884 Ship Seine has been transferred by Dan Flinders to Thos Knowles. Mr Knowles requests me to put you in mind of it, that the scrip when due may be given in his name -

You will find enclosed prem. note n^o 17506 Thos Bennett, Bergen Rajah -

Prem. note n^o 16222. E Haskell, Ship Mercury is due - Bergen Obento arrived 10 Sep n^o 12329 -

Respectfully yr obt servt
Wm J Russell

P.S. Edu^d C Jones has applied to me for insurance on catchings of Ship Florida \$10,000, prospectively that is catchings that she obtains from time to time. She sailed from here 16 Aug 1843. Was heard from last 15 Nov at Tristan d'Acunha. no ~~will~~ ~~hope~~ insured the Floridas catchings. last voyage the same way. reference to be had to that policy. She will probably be absent 20 mos or two years from the time she was last heard from. please say whether you will take the risk & at what prem. W J R

New Bedford 15 Oct 1844

Lebedu Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

What premium shall I ask
on Ship Mount Wallaston from hence to the
west coast of Africa for a cargo of Guano & lay
between 24° & 28° South, with liberty to use one other
port or Island without said latitude and back
to a port of discharge in the U States between
Boston & the Chesapeake -

The Mount Wallaston has been put in
good order for a whale voyage - has just under-
gone considerable repairs - Calked all over, new
sheathed & coppered - There is no objection to the
vessel - $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ has been given for the voyage for
such risks, to return $\frac{1}{2}\%$ in case no port or
Island is used without 24° & 28° -

Please name a prem. by return of mail -

Respectfully Yours
William T Russell

New Bedford 18 Oct 1844

Lebedu Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

Your favor of 16th is at hand -
according to the liberty ^{you gave me} I have agreed to take of the Agent here of the Genl
Mutual Ins. Co \$6000 on Ship Mount Wallaston
valued at \$12,000. At & from Fairhaven to the West Coast
of Africa ^{for a cargo of guano} to port ports or Islands between latitude 24°
& 28° , with liberty of using one other port or Island on
the West coast & back to a port of discharge in the U S -
between Boston & Chesapeake Bay - prem. $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ to return
 $\frac{1}{2}\%$ if she does not go ^{use a port or Island} without said latitudes -
The policy you can send to the Genl Mutual Co & take
their prem. note there, I send you the number.
Insurance to take effect from 4th Oct at noon -

Herewith you have a remittance of \$585 for the following prem. notes collected -

no 8270 Willcox & Richmond. Ship Hope	501.25
16222 C. Haskell	83.75
	<u>\$585</u>

Willcox & Richmond's note has laid over on account of their claim of average in which they failed by about \$100. The officers here remitted the interest & I thought best to remit it also, as it is rather a hard case -

Respectfully yours
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 22 Oct. 1844

Lebedee Cook Jr
New York
Dear Sir

The Brig Thomas Winslow of Westport insured at your office for \$7000 on vessel & outfit for a whale voyage, has deviated from her policy - as appears by a letter from the Captain to his owners dated St Helena 21 Augt 1844. He had shipped home what oil he had on board about 90 bbls which has arrived here - and intended to go to the coast of Africa for a cargo of Guano - Might proceed with his Guano to one of the West India Islands to dispose of it or return to a port in the United States - The Owners want to keep the vessel covered & ask for insurance on her for 6 months with liberty to extend it to 9 mos in case she does not return within that time - vessel valued at \$4000 & insurance wanted for that sum - I know of no objection to the quality of the vessel - She was originally well built, has been kept in good order, was newly coppered before she sailed on her present voyage - please name a prem. by return of mail for 6 mos with liberty to extend it to 9 mos - The prem. note no 12948 had best be forwarded for collection

Respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 24 Oct 1844

Mr Philip Ford
Troy N. York
Dear Sir

Your letter of 12th Sept was duly received and yours of 21st came to hand this morning, which put me in mind that I had not answered the former -

Since the receipt of your letter of 12 ulto. I have met with a great affliction in the death of my wife. She died very suddenly at Hopkinton Springs on the 26th Sept. where she had gone for the benefit of her health -

The ten dollars which you enclosed was immediately paid over to Bourn & Lincoln. I have instituted an enquiry for the Charles's Cloak & Chest but have not yet been able to hear any thing of them - should a they ever come to light I will inform you of it -

I am respectfully yours
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 18 Nov 1844

Lebideu Cook Jr
New York

Dear Sir

Mr Jos B Collins letter of 14th inst. enclosing prem. notes for collection & enquiry relative to prem. notes in my possession not collected was duly received - The following is a list of these notes -

10657	-	due 5/20. '43 with interest fm. that time	121.25
10674	}	due 9/10. '44, will pay as soon as	376.25
12176		he sells his Oil	61.25
14471			61.25
11795	due 12/4 th '44	additional prem for 7 mo @ 35"	91.25
11794	same time ad. ⁿ	prem same 35"	91.25
12949	same	same 17.50	41.25

Premium notes, continued

no		
11930	due 12/17. '44 addition prem. \$142 note 361.25	503.25
14401	due same for remainder of 74	106.25
12329	due 11/13. '44 prem. \$76.25 ad. prem. \$68.33	144.58
12948	due 10/24. '44 prem. \$176.25 ad. prem. \$122.98	299.23
11206	due 11/16. '44 - W R Rodman -	421.25
11481	due 1/3. '45 prem. \$56.25 ad. prem. \$19.85	76.10
13281	due same prem. \$44.75 ad. prem. \$21.75	66.50
13327	same 44.75 ad. prem. 21.75	66.50

n^o ~~11930~~ ¹⁰⁶⁵⁷ J. G. Coffins note remains unpaid & I am almost tired of dunning him, he continues to promise to pay -
 10674-12176-14471- Capt Bennett will pay as soon as he sells his Oil - 12948 J H Mayhew was due 24 Oct. he lies in Westport & no doubt will pay when he comes in town in a few days - All the other notes you will perceive are not due - Is there any additional prem. on 11206, W R Rodman the insurance was done with you - The Rebecca Sims arrived 30 Oct 44 -

I have forwarded herewith an application for insurance on Ship Roman - for Geo. Tappan -

Respectfully yours
 Wm J. Russell

The prem. notes on Ship Roman 11250-11251-16149 were paid & remitted 25 Sept 1844 - Ship Draper 10675 was paid & remitted 27 Augt - Ship Good Return 8579-8580 balance after paying salvage was remitted same time - The Hector I have never insured. All the others which you enquire after I believe are accounted for in the above mem. -
 W J R

New Bedford 27 Nov 1844

Mr Philip Ford
Troy N York
Dear Sir

I have at last found your
son Charles Clock & Chest - The Chest is in the
hands of Abel Howard who holds it as security
for a bill of clothing amounting to \$10.96/100 -
The Chest contains curiosities shells & his new
clothes & is probably worth more to you than the
sum it is pledged for - The Clock is in the
hands of John Clapp a livery stable keeper
who found it pledged at a house of ill fame
& redeemed it for \$4.50/100 - Mr Clapp has a bill
against Charles for Horse & Carriage hire of \$12.75/100
making \$17.25/100, which is probably the worth of
the Clock - If you wish to redeem them by paying
the amount they are pledged for, I will attend to it
& forward them to you -

Respectfully yours
Yours Truly
Russell

New Bedford 19 Dec 1844

Leander Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

Herewith you have a remittance
of \$1070.33/100 for the following prem. notes collected

11795 Fenelon M B Palmer	91.25	
ad ⁿ prem.	35. "	126.25
11794 Fenelon Jas Durfee	91.25	
ad ⁿ prem.	35. "	126.25
12949 Fenelon Edu ^d Worden	46.25	
ad ⁿ prem.	17.50	63.75
11930 Washington for Bourne	361.25	
ad ⁿ prem.	142. "	503.25
14401 Washington for Cole, for remainder of voyage		106.25
12329 Ostrawto C. Wilson	76.25	
ad ⁿ prem.	68.33	
		144.58
		\$1070.33

The following prem. notes are due, but have not been paid
I have promises of their being paid shortly & I have
~~no doubt~~ consider them safe - n^o 10657, 10674, 12176
12948 -

I have returned Policy n^o 17885 Ship
Romer, there being a mistake in the date, I ^{of the policy} rather
the date, to send it to you for approval, but Mr
Tappan insists on having a new policy, perhaps
it would be well to gratify him & send a new
policy dated 2nd Nov the day of the sailing of the
Ship instead of the 5th - Mr Tappan's prem. note n^o 17885
Sh. Romer is enclosed - I am respectfully yours
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 4 Jan'y. 1845
Lehman Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

Above you have a remittance
of \$508.33/100, for the following prem. notes collected -
n^o 11481. Isaac Bly 56.25

ad ⁿ prem.	19.85	76.10
13281 Dan ^l Wood	44.75	

ad ⁿ prem.	21.75	66.50
13327 Hervey Fullings	44.75	

ad ⁿ prem.	21.75	66.50
12948 Thos ^l W Mayhew	176.25	

ad ⁿ prem.	122.98	299.23
		\$508.33

schedule of risks taken by me &

Herewith you have my A/c for the past year
balance due me \$335.57/100, which if you find
correct please authorize me to draw on you for
that amt. - Should I not have some compen-
sation for collecting prem. notes - It is attended
with considerable trouble & some responsibility -

Your favor of yesterdays date came to with
prem. notes enclosed for collection came to hand this
morning - Wilson & Richmond's prem. note which
you refer to n^o 8271, for \$501.25, you will find

was remitted 186^{rs} last, as per my letter of that date -
They failed of making an average by a small sum
only - there was several months interest due on the
note, which in consideration of its being rather a hard
case the New Bedford officers did not exact, and
I ^{also} settled with them for the face of the note -
I have not demanded payment of W R Redman
for his prem. note, \$421.25, as you requested -

The risk on the Mary of Edgworth was not
taken by me, n^o 11677 - is there any additional prem.
due on it -

Respectfully yours
Ypsom J. Russell

New Bedford 20 Feby. 1845
Lebster Cook Jr
New York
D^r Sir

Above you have a remittance
of \$207.50/100, being the amt of the following
prem. notes -

n ^o 16141. Edw ^d C Jones. Th. Robt Edwards.	71.25
17010 Jas. H Howland same	136.25
	<u>\$207.50</u>

The other prem. notes in my possession remain
unpaid - Prem. notes on Ship Magnolia n^o 12493
& 12901 - will be due 4th March - they have not been
forwarded for collection - Enclosed is prem note
n^o 18177. Jas Henry Howland, Ship Ocean -

I am respectfully yours
Ypsom J. Russell

New Bedford 27 Feb 1845
Lehman Cook Jr
New York
Dear Sir

I regret to learn the loss of Ship
Holder Borden of Freetown Fall River, on which
rep'd I took \$10,000. We have no further particulars
than what is published in the newspapers, that she
struck on the French Shoal eight days after leaving
the Sandwich Islands, bound to N W coast & was
totally lost ship & cargo. She was a fine new ship
of high cost & equal to any of the whaling fleet -
I considered the risk one of the best I have taken -
The Sur & Gen Mutual have each \$5000 reinsurances
and all the officers here have more or less to the
amt of about \$40,000. I understand she was
valued in the policies at a sum considerably less
than the cost -

Enclosed is a list of names whom I suppose
are entitled to scrip, for which there has been frequent
inquiries of late. Please forward the certificates, & I
will distribute them -

Respectfully yours
G. M. Russell

Prem. notes on Ship Nimrod & Ship Herald will
be due 8th of March -

New Bedford 5 March 1845
Capt Calvin C. Adams
Martha Vineyard

Your prem. note for \$26.25/100
on Ship Mary has been sent to me for collection from
the Mutual Safety Ins. Co of New York, and was
due the ~~1st of last month~~ ^{24th last Sep}. Have the goodness to
send the money for it, as soon as convenient
and oblige yours

G. M. Russell

New Bedford 6 March 1845
Messrs. Gibson & Case
New York

Above you have a check on the
Mechanics Bank for \$27,8100, being the amount
of your bill of lading -

Respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 11 March 1845
Leander Cook Jr Esq
Dear Sir

Your favor of 7th inst enclosing
certificates of script and premium notes for collec-
tion was duly received -

Above you have a remittance of \$1155.32
being the amt. of premium the following prem. notes
collected -

16169	Thos E Sanford - Nimrod	94.25
16277	Thos E Sanford - Herald	21.25
12493	Chas W Morgan Magnolia	361.25
	ad ^r prem. -	<u>158.00</u> 519.25
12901	Chas W Morgan Magnolia	31.25
	ad ^r prem. -	<u>13.16</u> 44.41
12497	Saml Rodman Magnolia	241.25
	ad ^r prem. -	<u>105.33</u> 346.58
12670	Barton Ricketson Nimrod	61.25
	ad ^r prem. -	<u>68.33</u> 129.58
		<u>\$1155.32</u>

Payment has been offered on prem. note 16276. Ship Arden
for \$61.25, due 4/17. which please forward for collection -

Respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 31st March 1845

Messrs. Hoovey & Co
Boston

Enclosure is a list of Rose bushes &c
for myself & friends, which you will please pack, so
that they will come in good order, each of the three
parcels by itself, & directed to each one, and the whole in
one package directed to me, with a bill of each parcel
and send them by Rail Road as soon as convenient -
and I will remit the amt of your bill immediately -
I presume you will make a considerable discount
from your ordinary prices, on this order -
{ wrote again 18 Apr - } I am respectfully yours
J. M. Russell

New Bedford 1st Apr. 1845

Leb. Cook & Co
New York
Dr Sir

I regret to inform you that the
Ship Liverpool & Wilmington Packet, has been ashore
at Oahu, had to discharge & would be repaired, probably
at a heavy expense. The report that she would be condemned
is not true - she had 3000 bbls Oil - The loss will prob-
ably be ^{over} 30% or 40% -

Enclosure you have Edw C Jones Note. Ship
Florida no 18632 -

Respectfully yours
J. M. Russell

New Bedford 5 Apr 1845
Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

Above you have a remittance
of \$449.50. for the following prem. notes collected -
no 10674 Thos Bennett Barque Rajah 376.25
14471 Same 61.25
Interest on the above 12.00
\$449.50

There is another note of Capt Bennett ^{remaining unpaid} no ~~10674~~ ¹²¹⁷⁶
for \$96.46/100 with adⁿ prem & int. which has been due
some months, and which he promises to pay soon -

J. G. Coffins note for \$121.25/100 still remains
unpaid - you ordered me to see him last fall, but he
promised so fairly from time to time, that I have been
reluctant to see him - but if you repeat the order I
will do it at once -

As a R Nye thinks there is a mistake in the amt
of his scrip. His prem. note no 8274 was for \$126.25
The scrip he received is for \$19.69/100 - 2 3/2 % on \$126.25
would be \$29.66/100 - have the goodness to enquire
into it -

Capt David Wood the inspector has ordered
his bill for his services for the year to the 1st of this mo
for \$100 & proportion of travelling expenses to the outposts
Wanham Mattepoiset &c \$2.48 making \$102.48/100
shall I draw on you for that amt & pay him -

Ship Wm Hamilton arrived 2nd inst -

forwarded a
by W & mail

I am respectfully yours
Yours T. Russell

New Bedford 8. Apr. 1845
 Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
 New York
 Dear Sir

Messrs J. Houlahan & Co
 have applied to me ^{to insure \$10,000} for ~~insurance~~ on catchings of
 Ship America, spoken on the coast of Kamiskatscu
 9th of last Sept, with 4500 bbls Oil, can stow
 about 5000 bbls & would probably fill up in the
 remaining part of the season, early in Oct. & proceed
 home. I asked them 2% but they ~~have~~ ^{they now offer me the same but}
 Com^d office have taken \$15000 at 1 1/2%. I do not
 feel authorized to accept so low a premium, without
 consulting you. They would not promise to wait
 until I could hear from you, but probably will
 as the officers here are full on her. She is a good
 substantial ship & has a first rate master. please
 say by return of mail whether you will take the
 risk or not at 1 1/2% —

Your favor of yesterday is at hand. You
 omitted to authorize me to pay Capt Woods salary.
 the other N York officers have already paid him —

Respectfully yours
 Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 29. Apr. 1845
 Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
 Dear Sir

Herewith you have a remittance
 of \$515.40 for the following prem. notes collected
 by Capt Woods here —

N ^o 12435	49.25		
add prem. —	26.07	75.32	th. Copier Chap ⁿ 4/1 Bonny
12463	49.25		
add prem. —	26.07	75.32	same Jas Suscomb
12464	49.25		same
add prem. —	26.07	75.32	same W O Browne
16662	26.25		
add prem. —	9.57	35.82	same Jas Suscomb
13426	141.25		
add prem —	153.60	294.85	Hope Edw C Jones
carried forward —		555.63	

Amount brot forward 556.63
 n^o 16276 no adv prem. Tho^s E Sarfraz - 61.25
 Ship Arden - 617.88
 Paid Capt Woods bill as Inspector - 102.48
515.40

John C Moore or Messrs Moore & Moore, agents
 of Martha Vineyard, desire ~~me~~ to have requested
 me to ask you to forward ^{to me} a certificate of scrip due
 them on Policy n^o 7389. Ship York -

Respectfully yours
 W. J. Russell

New Bedford 29 Apr 1845
 Lebedee Cook & Co
 New York
 Dear Sir

The enclosed note from
 Messrs Jno A Parker & Son. abandoning to your
 office ship Wilmington & Liverpool packet
 has been handed to me since writing you this
 morning -

Respectfully yours
 W. J. Russell

New Bedford 2 May 1845
 Lebedee Cook & Co
 Dear Sir

Your favors of 30 ult & 1st inst are
 at hand -

You refer to your letter of 22 Nov last for the
 correction of errors ^{for prem. notes} mentioned therein. - These premium
 notes have all been paid & remitted with the exception
 of 10657. Timbly Coffin & 12176 Thos Bennett - as follows
 11250. Geo. Tappan } Ship Ramin 76.25 } remitted
 11257 M B Palmer } 76.25 } 25 Sept 1844

There was no additional prem. on these notes the Roman
 sailed 25 June 1844 & arrived 28 June 1845, being 3 days
 over the time insured two years which was not recorded -

\$61.25

12176. Thos Bennet's Barge Rajah remains unpaid. There is an additional prem. of \$35.21, with interest from 10 Sept last due on this note - 12949. Edu^d Woodell Ship Fenelon for \$46.25 ad^m prem \$17.50 making \$63.75 - was remitted 19th last Decr - 11481. Isaac Blye Ship L^t C Richmond for \$56.25. ad^m prem \$19.85 making \$76.10 was remitted 4th Jan^y last - Thus you will find all the premium notes referred to in your letter of 22 Nov^r accurate for, and the amount collected on them & remitted I believe correct -

The only notes now in my possession not collected, with the exception of those rec^d this morning in your letter of yesterday are - 12176. \$61.25 Thos Bennet - 10657 Tim^{ly} Coffin \$121.25 - 11677 \$26.25 Calvin C Adams - 11206 \$421.25. W R Rodman -

I have made the proposal to the Com^r & Merch^{ts} officers to raise the premiums to 3% per ann. & 5% for two years. They have it under consideration, but I doubt whether they will conform to it -

Mr Jos^{ph} Grinnell is in New York & I believe will be here before tomorrow evening, which will give you an opportunity to arrange with him about his policy on Ship Election -

I am respectfully Yours
W J Russell

New Bedford 3 May 1845
Lebedee Cook & Co^y
Dear Sir

Mr Francis S Hathaway wishes his policy on Barge Luck, which expires on the 4th inst. renewed for the same amount \$12000. Last amount of her - she was at Valparaiso bound to China -

Respectfully Yours
W J Russell

New Bedford 5 May 1845
Lebedev Cook & Co
Dear Sir

Your favor of 3rd inst. and J B Collins
Secy of same date are at hand - Mr Guinness prem
note. 18832. Ship Electra for \$68,750/100 is enclosed - he was
quite willing to relinquish the insurance ^{he paid} and you not sent it.

I find on examination that I omitted to collect
the additional prem. due on all the notes for prem.
on Ship Cicero - and also Asa R. Nye's note, Ship
Elizabeth. The fair of them only was paid to me -
I presume they can still be collected at any rate
it is a neglect for which I ought to be accountable
and you will please charge me with the amount -
as follows - According to my record Ship L C
Richmond ~~was~~ for Isaac Blye no 11481 was taken
from the time of sailing. \$1100 for 30 mos at 5% -
she sailed June 6/41 arrived Oct 10/44 - absent
40 mos 25 at ad prem 10 mos 25 at is \$19.85 and
this amt I collected -

The amt to be charged to me is as follows -

11698.	Cicero L. Hallock	10
11699	- " C Barney	10
11700	" Dav Wood	5
11737	" C Swain	4.78
11738	" W C Browne	4.78
8274	Elizabeth Asa R. Nye -	13.33
		<u>\$47.89</u>

The agents of the Sun & Gen Mutual have received
no orders to raise the premiums, and continue to issue
at former rates - The New Bedford Office will give no
definite answer, they cannot be depended upon to enter
into any agreement to est charge higher premiums -
and certainly will not as long as the other N York
agents are not instructed to raise them -

I am respectfully yours,
W. J Russell

6th May wrote to Gibson House
for a tub of new Butter.

New Bedford 7 May 1845-
Lebedeu Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Herewith I return policy n^o 18838 on Bergen Lark. Mr Hathaway objects to the guarantee of 4% in case of loss, but will give his note for 3½% and pay 4% if exports north of Guyaquil are used, and the note is made payable in sixteen months instead of twelve months.

Mr Hathaway applied to me simply for a renewal of his policy on the Lark, not making at the time any objections to the terms of the old policy or asking for any alteration. and I am surprised at the objection he now makes. It is for you to say whether you will send him a policy conformably to his views.

I am respectfully yours
Yrs J. Russell

New Bedford 10 May 1845
Lebedeu Cook Jr Esq
Dear Sir

Mr F T Hathaway has acceded to your terms, and I have renewed his Policy on Bergen Lark n^o 16923 for one year from 5th May 1845 to 5 May 1846 at noon, by making an endorsement on the Policy. You will please make a similar endorsement on your copy of the Policy and inform me if you have done so. Enclosed is Mr Hathaway's prem. note n^o 16923 for \$480. The charge of policy being deducted.

Respectfully yours
Yrs J. Russell

New Bedford 19 May 1845 -
Zebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

Your favor of 17th inst came to hand this morning. I immediately called on Capt McAllister of Bergen Ada, who informs me that his vessel went ashore on the South west part of Block Island in a thick fog and very light air from South, that he knew he was very near the land and was making every exertion to clear off, but ^{as} the tide kept sweeping him into shoaler water he let go an anchor, which she drag'd and in a few minutes struck - with the assistance of men from the Island she was hoove off after laying about four hours and proceeded to this port - The captain thinks the only damage his vessel has sustained is the loss of false keel and some copper - she remains tight - I was

The Ada is from Demerara, bound to New Bedford with a cargo of Guano on freight, taken from Ship Gulnare of this port - The Gulnare was from Schebar bound to New Bedford, & put into Demerara in distress & has been condemned -

The Ada is now along side the wharf, and commenced discharging her cargo this morning - The captain is expecting one of his owners here in a few days, and will do nothing towards repairing his vessel until he arrives - He would prefer he says to take her to St Andrews to repair, which he thinks can be done at much less expense than it can be done here - Perhaps a compromise might be made with the owner when he arrives at less than the cost of repairs will be here -

I am respectfully yours
J. M. Russell

New Bedford 20 May 1845

Isaac S Smith Esq
Buffalo

Dear Sir

Your favor of 15th inst. came to hand this morning -

I have no inclination to speculate in ~~the~~^{the} water lots at Black Rock, my object in purchasing the share belonging to the assignees of W J Harvey is to dispose of my ^{own} share to better advantage - I will now propose to you to name a price to offer to the assignees, that you think will afford some profit and I will ~~make~~ make the purchase and payment on their share and divide the profits with you - Or if you prefer to be the purchaser yourself, that will be equally satisfactory to me, and you can make your offer direct to the assignees, and I will not interfere. In either case my object will be attained. My own share of the lots can ~~be~~ either be sold or disposed of in some way or other to better advantage by being owned in company with you -

~~Then some~~ It will be necessary for you to make up your mind on the subject I write me as early as possible, as the assignees have nearly brot to a close the settlement of Mr Harvey's estate, and often importune me to make an offer for the water lots -

I had some conversation with S W Harvey when he was here last winter, about purchasing these lots, and he promised to write to me when he returned to Buffalo, but never having performed that promise I do not consider myself under any obligation to have any further communication with him on the subject -

I am very truly yours,
J. Russell

New Bedford 23 May 1845
Lebedev Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

Herewith is a copy of Capt
Pell's protest for the loss of Ship Holder Borden of
Fall River. The owners have left a note with me
abandoning the ship & cargo to the underwriters -

It appears Capt Pell purchased a Bree at
the Sandwich Islands for \$6000 & has proceeded
to the west Island where the Holder Borden was
wrecked to take the Oil & materials to the U. States.

The Ada will be discharged in the course of
next week -

Respectfully yours
J. M. T. Russell

New Bedford 24 May 1845
Lebedev Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

Please name a premium for
return of mail for Mr Francis Hathaway on cargo
of Ship Troy from New York to Valparaiso, and the
amt you are willing to take -

Respectfully yours
J. M. T. Russell

New Bedford 4 June 1845
Lebedev Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

By order of the survey the ship
Ada was hoisted out yesterday and the carpenters are to
work upon her. Her bottom is worse than was expected.
The false keel ^{if you go to} is entirely gone, & the keel badly broken
fore & aft, but it will not be necessary to take out any
part of it, ^{all the beams on} ^{now on left side} ^{in the bottom}
along the bilge the copper is pretty much
stripped off & several ^{small} places in her planks are worn
nearly through. The copper on her bow ~~is run & lost~~ ^{is}

about the bidge fore & aft
is whole and unless the seams are found to be ~~strengthened~~
open need not be taken off ^{then} The survey are men of judgment
& character & I have no reason to doubt will do justice to
all parties concerned. How shall the loss be adjusted
are you willing to have it done here by Capt Merrihue
Or shall the papers be forwarded to New York to be
adjusted there. The Ada is iron bolted & copper spiked,
but the copper spikes are very scattering. ~~she is chiefly~~
her planks are chiefly fastened with trenails -

I am respectfully yours
J. M. Russell
The larboard side is how out
the other side is probably much
the same -

New Bedford 12 June 1845

Lebedee Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

Herewith you have a remittance
of \$503.75/100, amt of the following prom. notes -
no 11740 J. & L. Hillman } 12h. 25
11765 Wm Swain } ship y/m 12h. 25
11789 Jno Cole } Hamilton- 251.25
\$503.75

Your favor of 6th inst was duly received. The
repairs on the Ada will probably be completed
tomorrow. They will not be heavy. I should think
barely amount to an average. The agents of the
owners in New York ^{Messrs. Smith & Benson} have ordered the agent of the
ship here to send the papers to them.

The prospectus which you sent me shall be attended
to. I shall leave home next Saturday on a journey
to the west & shall be absent about three weeks -

Very truly yours
J. M. Russell

New Bedford 14 June 1845 -
Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

Messrs. Baker & Fapell, the consignees of the cargo of Barque Ada, and who have acted as agents for the captain, have advanced over and above the amount of the freight about \$400 for repairs on the vessel - to reimburse themselves they have taken an order from the captain on the underwriters - As I believe they have acted conscientiously, and have laid out no more on repairs than was necessary, I hope you will see them paid -

Respectfully yours
Wm T. Russell

New Bedford June 16th 1845
Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

I received an application this morning from Capt Edward Howland for insurance on the Ship Robert Edwards ~~for~~ ^{on} ~~insurance~~ Ship valued at \$14000 Outfitts \$20,000 The amount wished insured \$1250 on Ship \$1500 on outfitts, with liberty to sell or ship home catchings.

I gave Capt Howland the rates of risks with which you instructed my Father, that is 3 per cent per ann. 5 per cent two years, which I suppose correct.

The Ship has just sailed & therefore Capt Howland would like the matter made binding as soon as possible, that is provided you should decide to take the risk.

Respectfully yours
W T Russell

New Bedford June 20th 1845

Lebedu Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

Yours of the 17th inst containing
Capt Edwards Howlands Policy no 19.027 came safe
to hand.

Capt Howland made a great mistake in the
amount wished insured, instead of \$2750, he wished
\$4,000, \$1500 on Ship & \$2500 on Outfitts. The valuation
on the Ship he would have changed from \$14000 to
\$12,000, the Outfitts remaining the same viz. \$20,000.

There was also a misunderstanding in regard to
the premium, instead of 3 per cent per Ann, he would like
it done for 6 per cent for three years, which from
instructions received this morning, in a letter bearing
date of the 18th inst. I suppose you will accede.

Enclosed I return the Policy & premium note, that
you may make the necessary alterations or fill out
a new Policy as you think proper

Respectfully yours
G Russell

New Bedford June 23rd 1845

Lebedu Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

Your favour of 21st enclosing
policy on Ship Robert Edwards, came safe to hand
Enclosed is the prem. note on that vessel no
19.027 for \$241.²⁵/₁₀₀

Respectfully yours
G Russell.

New Bedford 18 July 1845

Mr William Coggeshall

Fall River

Dear Sir

On my arrival home last evening, I found a note on my desk requesting that you might be informed when I returned -

If you will ~~forward~~^{send} me a statement of your claim on the Mutual Safety Ins. Co of New York with and the protest ^{in the top of the Paramo} I will forward it immediately to the President & no doubt your claim will be promptly paid -

I am respectfully yours
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 19 July 1845

Leander Cook Jr

New York

Dear Sir

Your favor of 14th inst I found on my arrival home yesterday - the settlement of I have made enquiry relative to Mr Rodman's claim on the New Bedford Office for loss of Ship Rebecca Sims, and have ascertained that the Whaling, Pacific & Merchants Office, have all paid him, according to Mr Tylers statement, without any revision or correction, with interest from 2nd Jan'y last - The Mechanics Office, ^{in which Mr Rodman is a director} after some discussion set the example and the others followed rather than have any further difficulty with him, but ~~I believe~~ they all considered the claim Mr Tylers statement incorrect in many respects - but it is said to have been made according to orders - The Pacific Office paid as you stated - on vessel \$1910.11 - outfit \$733.41 - Ship & outfit each valued at \$16,000 - the other offices paid in the same proportion - My enquiries have been made confidentially, and there is no fear that Mr R will ever hear of them - It is customary for a whale ship to carry tales when they sail about

\$100 dollars in gold or silver - They depend mostly on
Cotton goods & various articles to barter for refreshments -
during the voyage - Mr. Adam Rodman's note
no 9310 - Ship for Stewart for \$491.25 due 23 June
remains unpaid, there being a claim of average as
Mr. Rodman says -

Respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 21 July 1845 -

Leb. Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

The news of the great fire in
New York has caused a great excitement here, and
a general distrust of the ability of the insurance
companies to pay their losses - Have the goodness
to inform me of the standing of your office after
paying all losses, as soon as ascertained, that I
may answer the numerous inquiries correctly -

I am respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 24 July 1845

Leb. Cook Jr Esq
Dr Sir

Enclosed is a remittance of \$101 =
being the amt collected of Thos Bennett for prem. note
12176 Bazarajah - 61.25 due 10 Sept '44
add prem. - 35.21
10 mo interest - 4.72
\$101.18

Yours respectfully
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 1st Augt. 1845

Mr Murphy & Howe
Jonesville

Hillsdale county, Michigan -

Sir,

Your favor of 22nd ultimo was duly received - My stay was so short at Chicago and my time so much occupied that I entirely forgot to send you the tax receipts which I paid at Adrian for taxes on my land in Lenawee county - They are now enclosed, both bills amounting to \$37.06 - It appears by your statement, these taxes ^{also taxes in Hillsdale county} have been twice paid. Have the goodness to get them refunded, and credit me with the amount you received - Since my return home Mr Williams has been absent, but is expected in New Bedford again before he returns to Michigan - I shall therefore have an opportunity to enquire of him respecting Hammonds contract - I think it would be best in future as you suggest to require Hammond to ~~pay~~ make his payment to you in cash, and I shall rely on you to pay the taxes in future on my land in Hillsdale county - The surveys of my land which you ordered were received through Judge Prescott -

Respectfully yours

Y^{rs} M^t Russell

New Bedford 9th Augt. 1845
Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Your favor of 6th inst came to hand last evening by the land mail -

I have made the proposal to the owners of Ship Canada & Ship Emily Morgan to cancel the amts you named on those ships, by allowing the premium earned up to the time they were last heard from, but they have it under consideration but have not yet given me an answer - The insured on the Caroline are out of town, as I have not been able to see them -

In the mean time I applied to Capt Crocker's office & to Capt Merrihue to name a premium ^{on these ships} - Capt Merrihue, will take the Caroline at $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ per annum - The Emily Morgan at the same - from the time they were last heard from - and the Canada at 3% ^{per annum} ~~for the remainder of the voyage~~ - At Capt Crocker's office, they declined taking naming a premium not being willing to take the note of your office - You will please inform me I shall wait to hear from you, whether you accept Capt Merrihue's terms -

I am respectfully yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 19 Augt 1845
Zeb. Cook Jr Esq
Dear Sir

Since the rumours of war with Mexico the owners of the Emily Morgan, Canada & Caroline, decline cancelling any part of their insurance with your office - Our officers have advanced their premiums to 3% for one year $5\frac{1}{2}\%$ for two years and 8% for three years -

I am respectfully yours
W. T. R.

New Bedford 22 Aug^r 1845

J. Cook & Co
New York
D^r Sir

Enclosed is a remittance of \$332.⁴⁹/₁₀₀
for the following prem. notes collected —

N ^o 14423	Panther. Nathaniel Durfee	121.25
12462	Callao Cook & Snow	65.
	ad ^r prem. —	<u>40.62</u>
		105.62
12465	Callao W. H. Manchester	65. "
	ad ^r prem. —	<u>40.62</u>
		105.62
		<u>\$332.49</u>

I am respectfully yours
Wm^r T. Russell

New Bedford 25th Aug^r 1845

Decher Cook & Co
Dear Sir

Enclosed is a note received
from Wm Coggeshall agent of Ship Panama
of Fall River, abandoning that Ship to your
office & claiming a total loss —

Respectfully yours
Wm^r T. Russell

Copy

Fall River Aug^r 23. 1845

To the Pres. Directors &c of the Mutual
Safety Ins Co of New York - Texas

Being advised of the loss of Ship
Panama of this place on the Island of Dominica on
the 5th day of Nov^r 1844 by letter & other sources, I do
hereby abandon to you all the right, title, and interest
insured by you in Policy N^o 13376 - dated 16th day
of January 1843, and claiming of you a total loss —
signed Wm Coggeshall —

New Bedford 29 Augt. 1845-
Lebeder Cook & Esy
New York
Sir

Capt Tell for himself & crew
of Ship Holder Borden & Nathar Dyer for himself
& the other owners of that ship, have libelled ^{for salvage} the
cargo saved from the wreck of the Holder Borden
consisting of 12730 gals Sperrin Oil - 13256 gals Black
fish Oil & 499 gals Humpback Oil, laden & now
lying at Fall River -

A Salvage suit has been entered in the district
court of the U. States, and Mr Clifford, counsel
for the underwriters here, will resist it on the ground
that neither the owners nor the ships company can
legally claim or recover salvage upon this property.
~~Will it not be well for you also to employ~~
~~Mr Clifford in behalf of your office -~~

A power of attorney is already executed by the other
companies, interested, to Mr Clifford, to ~~be~~ attend to
the suit on their behalf, will it not be well for
you also to employ him on behalf of your office
& authorize me to sign the general power of
attorney constituting him ^{to protect yr interests} your agent in this case -
Let me shall want a copy of the policy -

I am respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford Sept 1845
Lebrier Cook Jr Esq.
New York
Dear Sir

I have an application for insurance
on catchings on board Ship Concord, but hardly felt at
liberty to take a risk, under present circumstances without
consulting ^{you} ~~some one~~ <sup>to know whether you intend to con-
tribute to the risk</sup> ~~to you~~ ^{to you} ~~two or three thousand~~ ^{two or three thousand} dollars, should
be wasted as the Concord catchings, would you be willing
to take it and at what premium - She ^{is} reported
in the shipping list with 1280 bbls last Feb on the coast
of Chili - The Mch^{ts} & Cost Office now ask $5\frac{1}{2}\%$
for two years -

Respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 12 Sept 1845
Mr Orin Baker
Fairfield
Lenawee Co. Michigan -

Your letter of 2nd instant was
received this morning -

The lot of land in Lucas county of 80 acres
W¹/₂ of NW¹/₄, Sec 3, T. 10 South ~~which~~ you say you
have had three applications to purchase, but no offer
higher than three dollars - This lot is among the best
openings, and I consider them the most valuable of any
of my lots. ~~I should not~~ I am not willing to sell
it at three dollars per acre - but will take four dollars
per acre, the purchaser to pay the taxes for 1845. Try
to get a part cash, but if you cannot you may sell
on credit, of three or four years, a part to be paid within
that time, provided a house is erected within a year
& improvements commenced immediately -

I wrote you some time since, the date I do not
recollect, giving you an account of my journey home
but which I think you ought to have received
previous to the date of your letter - I also mentioned
that the crop of grain in England was likely to prove

short - Since then we have later accounts from
England, stating that the crop will be an average
one, and the probability now is that they will not
need much of our flour, and that prices will not be
much if any higher in this country, but I think there
is no fear of their being lower this year -

The season has been very favorable for fruit in this
part of the country, for peaches & pears in particular -
I have had a great abundance of peaches, ^{from my garden} for all my
family, every day for the last two weeks, besides giving
away a great many to my friends - and they are likely
to hold out some time longer - and also an abundance
of pears, some of them very large & fine - I wish you
had some of the grafts. If you have any pear stocks
I may have an opportunity to send you some grafts
next spring -

With kind regards to Mrs Baker & all your
family I remain your friend -

W. J. Russell

New Bedford 26 Sept 1845
Messrs Redfield & Russell
Goshen
Orange County N York
Gent,

Your letter of 24 inst is received.
Messrs Crocker will deliver in New York to your
order two bbls best Winter Oil at 95¢ per gallon -
cash - They are selling at the same price delivered at
their works, and cannot they say put it at a less
price delivered in N York - It is not customary to
give a credit on so small a quantity -

Your best way to pay for it would be to authorize
Wickers & Gale to pay the Captain when they receive
the Oil - If these terms suit you let me know
& I will order the Oil forwarded immediately -

I am very truly yours

W. J. Russell

New Bedford 30th Sep 1845

Mr Thomas Bennett & Co
Franklin, ~~Academy~~ Factory -
Upson County, Georgia -
Dear Sir

My son Gilbert has a great desire to spend next winter at the south partly for the benefit of his health, and also with a view of looking for business for the future. He has an inclination to obtain a knowledge of manufacturing, and hearing so good an account of the healthiness of the climate when you are located from your father, that I am induced to apply to you to ask the favor of you to take him under your protection for the winter, where he will be in the way of learning something, and at the same time benefit his health. ~~Of course he does not expect any compensation for what~~ He will be ready & willing to assist you in your business, for the sake of employment & for the information he may obtain, without any compensation. His moral habits I believe are perfectly very good, and his honesty & integrity undoubted. He is ~~inexperience~~, but has the foundation of a good education to fit him for business.

If you would like to receive him on such terms as I have named, and take him to board with you and make a companion of him, you will please write me as soon as you conveniently can and point out the best way for him to reach your place. He would like to leave home about the first of Nov^r.

I was at your fathers yesterday, they requested me to say to you they are well -

With much regard I remain
I am very truly yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 2nd Oct. 1845.
Lebedev Cook & Co
New York
Dear Sir

Enclosed is an order a small
order for insurance on catchings on board Barge Rajah
and on what she may obtain -

There has been so much competition among the
agents of the New York office here for the last year or two, and now
so much distrust of their stability since the great fire
that the business has fallen off to mere nothing, and
I doubt whether I can be of much service to you
in future in obtaining business for your office in this
place ~~in future~~ - I am willing to continue my agency
if you desire it and take such risks as may offer - or if
you can find an agent more active in soliciting business
I will most cheerfully resign to him -

I am respectfully yours
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford Oct 4. 1845
Lebedev Cook & Co
New York
Dear Sir

Your favor of 3rd inst is received.
The application for insurance on Barge Rajah
was for one year, for which I asked 3%, warranting 3%
should she arrive within a year from the time she
was last heard from - and at the rate of 3% per annum
for the time ^{which I believe is conformable to your terms} over one year - She was bound to the NW
coast last spring & is expected to fill there the present
season & be at home next spring. She may over run
a year or fall short of it. Capt Bennette has is in the
habit of getting insurance on catchings prospectively, &
has always had it done at his insurance on the Rajah
done at your office - the vessel sailed in good order
& I consider the risk a very good one -

I am respectfully &c
W. J. Russell

6th Oct. 1845 Sent to Gibson & Co New York
for a test of new butter -

This firm was dissolved last May. The business
is now continued by James R Gibson as per his
letter of 8 Oct 1845

New Bedford 17 Oct. 1845
Lebedee Cook Jr Esq

Enclosed is prem. note no 19729
Bergen Rajah. Thos Bennett -
Respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 22 Oct 1845
Henry Spinnell
New York
Dear Brother

Gilbert is very desirous to go
out to Georgia this fall to join Thos Bennett
formerly of New Bedford, who is established there
as agent of a cotton factory owned by Fairhaven
and New Bedford people, situated in the interior
of Geo. among the mountains in Upson county
about 200 miles north westerly of Savannah &
about 40 miles from Macon, to which place
the Rail Road from Savannah extends -
The climate is said to be one of the most
healthy as well as one of the most agreeable in
the U States - This factory has been in
successful operation several years and is now
making an enormous per cent age on its capital
in manufacturing coarse Cotton Goods from
the raw material grown in that vicinity,
adapted to the wants of that part of the country
and which find a ready market on the spot -
Gilbert's object is to gain some knowledge

of manufacturing while spending the winter there under the protection of Mr Bennett, who will be glad to have him with him and will give him every facility to obtain a knowledge of the machinery and of keeping the accounts, and I think he will have a better opportunity of acquiring information in that business there than in a large establishment at the north, and it may lead to his being established there permanently in a profitable business -

As you have shown an interest in Gilbert's just starting in the world it is his desire that you should be consulted in this business matter - please write me what you think of it - should there be no impediment in the way, he proposes leaving home about the first of Nov -

There are no slaves employed in this Factory the operatives are what is called Crackers, the native whites of the country - they work for very low wages -

I hope to see you here when Sarah has completed her visit - she is a very good girl and I believe is enjoying herself very much - Henry expects you to bring Robert with you with my love to Sarah I remain very truly
y^r affec. brother

W J Russell

New Bedford 5 Nov 1845

Thos Bennett Jr
Franklin Academy
Upson County Geo.
Dear Sir

Your favor of 11th ultimo was duly received -

Gilbert has decided to go to Geo. notwithstanding your representation of the privations he will have to meet with - He is fully aware that he cannot have all the comforts of New Bedford, but the Georgia climate in winter he thinks will more than compensate for all the rough fare and inconveniences, and I have no doubt he will be contented & happy

with you. He will leave home for New York in a few days and take passage from there for Savannah, and will probably be with you about the 20th of this month -

For your information respecting the manufacture of Cotton in Georgia I am very much obliged - I shall observe your caution and not divulge your information to any one unnecessarily and to no one to your injury or to the proprietors of your mills - The statement of the profits of your mills exceed any thing that can be done at the north - and I am inclined to believe that the manufacture of coarse goods at the south will continue to be more profitable for many years than any manufacturing business will be at the north - With a view of understanding more about this business & to keep clear of the cold weather, I have some idea of visiting the South this winter, and if I do I shall call at your place, and perhaps we may hit upon something that will be to our mutual benefit -

The Steamer at Boston brings accounts from England to the 19th of last month - The Cotton market was very dull with a slight reduction in prices - All breadstuffs had risen. & flour no doubt will go up to \$6 in the U States -

With much regards

your friend

Wm. T. Russell

New Bedford 9 Dec 1845

Isaac Smith Esq
Buffalo
My dear Sir

I am very much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken to inform that the Black Rock water lots will be sold to pay the taxes only, they are paid by the 20th inst - Half the taxes belong to the assignees of W. J. Haven to pay they having agreed when they sold their interest in the lots to Mr. Allen, to pay all taxes - having them to consult was been the cause of not the delay in not replying to your letter ~~before~~ -

I must now take the liberty of trespassing further on your kindness, and ask the favor of you to pay up all demands on the lots, and draw on on me for the amount, and your draft shall be promptly paid, and also reimburse yourself for all ~~your~~ trouble - Perhaps Saml W. Haven, may be able to pay this amt ^{on acc of his old debt to me} for me, and save you ~~the~~ any ~~trouble~~ of any further trouble - If not please draw on me as before directed - Mr. Allen and myself are desirous to sell these lots, is there any chance of getting rid of them for near their value -
With much regard your friend
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 12 Dec 1845
Lebidee Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

Enclosed is a statement of premium notes collected for your company from Dec 1842 to the present time, with the additional premiums received - Also of Marine risks taken this year, and my account showing the amount of \$130.28 due me -

I have in my hands the following premium notes, due but not paid -

N ^o 11677. Ship Mary of Edgarton -	C C Adams	26.25
9310 Sh. Jas Stewart;	Sam ^r Rodman	491.25
of St Johns - }	for Jas Stewart - }	
10657 Mercator	J. H. Coffin	121.25

N^o 11677 will no doubt be paid when Mr Adams comes in town - 9310 Mr Rodman who signs the notes for Mr Stewart says there is a claim on the office for average, and is reporting every day to him from Mr Stewart of St Johns respecting it - 10657 Mr Coffin has promised repeatedly to pay, if he does not by the close of the year it had better be put in suit -

I am respectfully
your obt servt
Wm^r Russell

New Bedford 3 Jan^y. 1846.
Lebrier Cook & Co^y
New York

Dear Sir

The bearer Mr Stewart
the owner of Ship James Stewart of St Johns of N B
has presented to the office here a claim for average
on that ship, and is going to New York to present
his claim on your office. Mr Tyler you will
perceive has made up two statements, the first
he calls a legal claim the second a claim in
equity. The New Bedford office have agreed
to pay the first but decline paying the second
and I believe Mr Stewart is ~~weddy to settle without~~
~~insistence upon his claim in equity~~ — sensible
he cannot insist upon it —

Enclosed is the premium note on the James
Stewart n^o 9310, \$491.25, which I return to you
to be deducted from the settlement —

I am respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 8 Jan'y. 1846

Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

Your favor of 5th inst is at hand -
The check enclosed for \$57.48 being the balance
due Mr Stewart on the average on Ship James
Stewart, after deducting the prem. note

New Bedford 9 Jan'y. 1846

Zebulon Cook Jr Esq

New York

Dear Sir

Your favor of 5th inst is at hand -
Enclosed is the policy on Ship James Stewart
no 9310, receipted ^{by Charles C. Stewart} for all claims due under that
policy - I am respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 22 Jan'y. 1846

Mr Orin Baker

Fairfield

Lenauee County

Michigan

Respected friend

Your letter dated 6th of this
month, has been a long time on the road - I did not
receive it until within a few days -

The sale you have made of the two lots in
Lucas County Ohio. E $\frac{1}{2}$ of T W $\frac{1}{4}$ and W $\frac{1}{2}$ of T E $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 35. T 9 S. R 2 E. 160 acres. I approve of -
The payments you say are to be \$5 down - \$150
in two years - \$240.50/100 in three years - and \$240.50/100
in four years, with interest annually, making \$636
for the ~~two~~ for the 160 acres - You did right to
employ Mr Harris to draw the articles of agreement -
no doubt he would have every thing legally done -
It is always safest to ~~employ~~ pay a lawyer to

draw such instruments - I would have preferred a shorter credit on these lots. But I had rather sell them on these terms than to have lost the sale. It is making a beginning, and I hope you will be able to make the next sale at a shorter time - The other two lots in that neighborhood, are more valuable lots, than those you have sold, and I hope you will be able to get \$5 per acre for them. I do not feel willing at present to sell them for less - ~~Did you make an agreement with the purchaser to pay the taxes for~~ I hope you will have an application for some of the lots in Sec 12 & 13 T9 S. R 3 E -

We have had till within a few days very mild weather, very little snow - not enough for sleighing. we seldom have any sleighing to last more than a day or two -

I suppose you have heard of the rumours of a war with England about Oregon. We have felt some anxiety about it, in this town, having so many ships at sea which would be liable to be captured, but the ^{among us} most intelligent people, have no doubt our difficulties with England will be amicably settled. Flour has fallen within a few weeks and is worth now in New York by the quantity for shipping about \$5 per barrel - Corn 73 cts per bus. Here we have to pay for a single bbl \$7. for the fancy brand, for family use & 80 cts for corn - Oats 45 cts -

Henry remains with me this winter and goes to school, but I expect he will leave me next spring and learn to be a cotton manufacturer - He desires to be remembered to you and your wife. Give my kind regards to your wife and all your family - To your daughter who was lately married I wish a happy union -

With much regard yr friend,
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 26 Jan'y. 1846
Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

Thomas Bennet has applied
for \$1500 insurance on catchings on board Barque
Rajah and to be obtained, from the time she was
last heard from at Lahaina 2nd Oct 1845, with
250 bbls Sperm 600 whale Oil. the premium for
such a risk would be $2\frac{3}{4}\%$ for 12 mos at the
New Bedford office. If you like the risk on
those terms, please send a policy by return of mail

Your favor of 20th inst enclosing premium
notes for collection was duly received, and one
them is one of W R Rodmans notes for \$737.25
for prem. on Ship Augusta, this Ship was
condemned at Rio,

I regret to hear the loss of Barque Drymo
of this port. I have taken \$687.50 on this vessel for
your office. The owners have not yet received
any particulars of her loss. The office here
have about \$15,000 on her.

I am respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 29th Jan'y. 1846 -
Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

I have forwarded herewith
policy 10567, Ship Emily Morgan, for your approval
of the transfer of W. C Coffins interest ^{in this policy} to Matthew
Lew. Mr Coffin has lately married Sarah C Barney
which gives him a title to her interest in the policy, and
has made a bona fide sale to Capt Lew.

Your favor of 27th Jan'y. is at hand. I have
heard no particulars, respecting the Ship Augusta
and did not know she was insured at your office
until you sent me the premium note for collection.
I have ascertained that the amounts are in the hands

of Capt Merrihue, and that he is making a statement
of them to claim of the underwriter^{for} the loss of the ship -

I will make inquiry, and should I get any information
that would be of value to you respecting the condemnation
of the Augusta I will inform you -

I have drawn on you to day for the balance of
my A/c at sight for \$130. 28/100 -

Very truly yours
Wm J Russell

New Bedford 6 Feb. 1846

Lebiden Cook & Co

New York

Dear Sir

You will find enclosed a remittance
of \$307. 44/100 for the following premium notes collected
no 11679. Ship Mary. C C Adams 26.25

Int - - - 1.57 - 27.82

8745 Ship Metacom D^r Wood 126.25
ad^r prem 10/16 ds - 72 - 198.25

12385 Ship Hydaspes. D^r Wood 21.25
ad^r prem. 14/13 ds - 12. - 33.25

14789 Octavia Jno R Thornton - 57.50
ad^r prem 1/10 ds - 3.12 - 60.62
319.94

Left. paid D^r Wood as inspector. 1 1/2 months
over & above 1 year service @ \$100 per ann.

12.50
\$307.44

You will see I have deducted from Capt Wood's
prem. notes \$12.50 for 1 1/2 months service as inspector
over & above 1 year salary which was p^d him - he having
served 13 1/2 months before having notice, that his ser-
vices were not required -

There is so little intercourse with Martha's
Vineyard at this season of the year, that it will
probably be some time before the prem notes. can
be collected from the owners of the Pavilion

Capt Bennett prefers having his insurance done
at your office, & insists upon my writing you again
to take the Rajah, he will give 3% per annum

say \$1500 on catchings from the time she was
lost here from at Lahaina 2nd Oct 1845 -

I am respectfully Yours
W J R

New Bedford 9 Feby. 1846 -

Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

I beg pardon for my
neglect and return the draft on Mechanics
Bank for \$307. 44/100, endorsed -

Very truly yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 18 Feby. 1846

L. Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

Capt Bennett requests me to say
he will accept your offer of 3% per annum warranting
5% on catchings on board Beque Rajah, as she cannot
be expected before 5% is used up - I know of no objection
to the vessel, - she stands as fair as any other vessel at
the office here of her class -

Respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 26 Feby. 1846

L Cook & Co

New York

Dear Sir

Please name a premium for the following application for insurance, by return of mail "Thomas S Hathaway on cargo of Ship Hovatio for whom it may concern, loss if any payable to him at & from Canton to New York, risk of lighters included, with terms of average - Say \$30,000 on cargo,

Very truly yours

Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 4 March 1846

Isaac S Smith Esq

Buffalo

Dear Sir

Judge Purcott has returned from the west & informs me, he saw you on his journey & conversed with you respecting the water lots at Black Rock, that it was your opinion that it would be to our interest to relinquish the privilege of using the water, rather than pay the taxes to the state - As I am ignorant of the facts in the case, I cannot form an opinion of about it, but shall rely upon yours - I would suggest if the privilege is forfeited upon the other lots, whether it would not enhance the value of ours, if we paid the taxes & retained the privilege of the water - What will be the value of the lots without the ^{as this refers} water privilege, and how much with it, & what is the precise amt of the taxes, demanded -

Have the goodness to write me fully on the subject, and oblige Yours very truly

W. J. Russell

New Bedford 17 March 1846

Leb. Cook Jr
New York

Dear Sir

Herewith is forwarded a remittance
of \$302.70/100 - for the following premium notes collected

No 14909. Barque Peri J ^{no} Knowles	70 "	
4 mo ad ⁿ prem.	<u>11.45</u>	81.45
14910 same R. French	151.35	
4 mo ad ⁿ prem	<u>25. "</u>	176.25
14923 same W Bates	38.75	
4 mo ad ⁿ prem.	<u>6.25</u>	45 "
		<u>\$302.70</u>

Also is forwarded herewith premium notes
No 20442 Barque Rajah and 20570. Ship Oneida -

Very respectfully
Y^{rs} M^{rs} J. Russell

New Bedford 18 March 1846

Leb. Cook Jr Esq
New York

The protest of the loss of Barque
Drymo has been handed to me by the owner, to be
forwarded to you, with the request that when you
have examined ^{it} you will please hand it over to
the Sun Mutual Office -

The last accounts from Capt Taber. he was
selling off the effects saved from the wreck. and
would return home as soon as he had finished his
business -

Respectfully yours
Y^{rs} M^{rs} J. Russell

New Bedford 21 March 1846

Deb. Cook Jr Esq
New York
D^r Sir

Enclosed is Messrs D R Greene & Co's
prem. note no 16202 Ship Mechanic for \$376.25
dated 24 Feb'y at 60 days - the original prem. note
being exchanged for it, as you requested

Respectfully yours
W. J. R

New Bedford 26 March 1846

Deb. Cook Jr Esq
New York
D^r Sir

Your favor of 24th inst is at
hand -

I notified the owners of the Pavilion, im-
mediately after receiving the premium notes, last
Jan'y that they were due, since which neither of them
have been in town & I have not heard any thing
from them - I shall write to them again & urge
immediate payment -

Very respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 9 Apr. 1846
Capt Calvin C Adams
Edgartown
Dear Sir

Your premium note on Big Pavilion, and also the notes of the other owners were due the 19th of last Novr. A statement of them with the additional premium is below. I should be glad to have them settled as soon as convenient - and please give the notice to the other owners -

Respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

Calvin C Adams	102.05
add ⁿ prem 12 mos 15 ds	105. "
Int fm. 19 Novr	—
Mayhew Adams	34.25
add ⁿ prem.	34.37
Int fm. 19 Novr	—
Ira Darrow	12.50
add ⁿ prem.	11.92
Int fm. 19 Novr	—
Solomon C Swift	23.75
add ⁿ prem	23.44
Int fm 19 Novr	—

New Bedford 20 Apr. 1846 -
Lebideu Cook Jr Esq
Dear Sir

Capt John of Barque Drymo
has just returned home - He informs me the Sale
of the vessel and effects netted Three thousand & odd
dollars - The owners insured at your office have
demanded payment of me - ^{what expense shall you them} Will you authorize
me to settle with ^{them} deducting ~~the~~ your proportion of
the amt saved from the wreck, and draw on you for
the balance due them

Respectfully Yours
Wm T. Russell

New Bedford 1st May 1846 -
Leb. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Herewith you have a remittance
of \$729.⁷⁵ by check on the Mechanics Bank. N York
for the following prem. notes collected -

15863. H B Gifford	83.75
15864 Wm Weeks	94.75
15865 C C Jones	551.25
	\$ 729.75

Vineyard notes
remain unpaid

Respectfully yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 6 May 1846
Leb. Cook Jr Esq
New York - Dear Sir

Capt Starhope of whom you
make enquiry arrived here a passenger in Ship Caston
the 27th last month & left town the next day - I am informed
his residence is Newport where he has a family - He was
seen in Boston within two or three days, but whether he is
still in Boston or has returned to Newport I have not
been able to ascertain - Very truly yours
Wm T. Russell

New Bedford 7 May 1846
Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Your favor of yesterday enclosing several premium notes for collection is received. As the insurance was not effected through my agency I have no means of knowing the additional premium. It must therefore be made up at your office. A memorandum of the notes sent to me is at foot —

Very truly yours
Wm T. Russell

N^o 18599. Tobacco Plant
17187 Char Frederick
15678 do
17970 do
10957 Cuprates —

New Bedford 9 May 1846
Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Enclosed is a Bank
Check for \$212.85, received for Calvin C Adams
premium note 15487, with additional premium &
interest — via Original note — — — 102.05
addⁿ from 12 mo^s 15 ds 105. "
Intⁿ 5 mo^s 18 ds — — — 5.80
\$ 212.85

The other notes due on the Pavilion I am
informed are perfectly good & no doubt will soon
be paid without putting them in suit —

See opposite page

New Bedford 9 May. 1846.

Lebeder Cook Jr Esq
New York
D^r Sir

Enclosed is a Bank check for
\$237.75, received for the following prem. notes -
no 15487 C. Adams 102.05
adⁿ prem. 12 mo 15 ds 105.
Int 5 mo 18 ds 5.80 212.85
no 17071 J. A. Darro 12.50
adⁿ prem 12 mo 15 ds 18.72 11.72
Int 5 mo 18 ds 2.68 24.90
237.75

The other notes due on the Partition I am informed
are perfectly good & no doubt will soon be paid
without putting them in suit -

Respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 22 May 1846

Lebeder Cook Jr Esq
New York
D^r Sir

The following premium notes
are herewith returned to you, as you directed, the
promisors not living in New Bedford -

no 17970	Chas F Brown	46.25
17187	Edmund Allen	76.25
15678	Chas F Brown	56.25
10957	Henry Spinnell	241.25
18399	Silvanus Allen	26.25

Edward Merrill has requested me to ask the
favor of you to extend the payment of his premium
note no 10567. Ship Emily Morgan for \$1001.25/100
to four months hence - it will be due the 30th of June -
The ships cargo is stowed & he cannot realize any thing
from it before next Fall - the note is perfectly good

Respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 22 May 1846

Mr J. R. Gibson
New York

Please send by Godfrey's
express a tub of your best new butter for my
friend John H. Clifford, directed to him with
a bill - and oblige yours
Yours J. Russell

New Bedford 23 May 1846

L. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Herewith is a bank check
for \$70.67 ^{collected} for premium note no 17009.
May her Adams. Barque Pavilion, as per statement.
prem. note - 34.25
ad^m prem. 12 mo 15 ds 34.37
6 mo interest - 2.05
\$70.67

I shall settle the loss on Barque Drymo
next Monday, and draw on you at sight as
authorized by you -

Respectfully yours
Yours J. Russell

New Bedford 25 May 1845

Lebrier Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

I have this day drawn on you
at sight for James B. Candan Cash for \$5085.29/100
as authorized by you to settle the loss on Barque Drymo
policy no 17342, and enclosed is J^r S. Taber's receipt
for the same -

Mutual Safety's appropriation of loss
as per Capt. Merrihue's statement.

deduct prem. note no 17342. J^r S. Taber

5327.17

241.88

\$5085.29

I am respectfully yours
Wm J Russell

New Bedford 2nd June 1846.

Lebedee Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

Mr Barton Ricketson says he has
a claim on your office for average on Ship Canada
which has been made up by you. ^{8¹⁰ to be deducted from his prem. note} His premium note
N^o 13221 amounting with additional premium to \$1178²⁵/₁₀₀
falls due the 11th inst. Please send me the amount of
his claim previous to that date that I may be ready
to settle with him.

I am respectfully yours
Wm J Russell

New Bedford 20 June 1846

Lebedee Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

Barton Ricketson claims interest
on the gen^l average allowed on Ship Canada.
\$204.60/100 from 5th June 1842. He considers it was
due ^{as cash} at that time. I have inquired at the Com^r,
office & find they paid ^{his claim in cash} ~~him~~ about that time —
~~You said nothing about allowing him interest.~~
~~I would~~ I do not feel at liberty to allow the interest
Is the date right & shall I ~~allow~~ ^{the} allow interest
from the claims —

Respectfully yours
Wm J Russell

New Bedford 25 June 1846.
Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Premium note no 18632
Edw C Jones, Ship Florida became due last
month, and Mr Jones called this morning to pay
it, but I cannot find any Memorandum of it
and presume it has not been forwarded to me
for collection -

Mr Ricketson has not yet paid his note
13221 due 11th inst. Making the usual excuse that
his oil is not sold & the great inconvenience of paying
it at this time - The New Bedford office have
been in the practice of letting notes lay over in such
cases - and such has been their indulgence, that
now no one thinks of paying a prem. note until
it is perfectly convenient - There is no doubt
of Mr Ricketson's ability to pay & I think it would
be good policy to grant him some indulgence -

Respectfully yours
Wm J Russell

New Bedford 27 June 1846
Zeb. Cook Jr Esq
Sir

Your favor of 26th inst is at hand -
Herewith is a remittance of \$229.62/100, amt of
Edw C Jones prem. note ^{\$158.75} no 18.632 - Ship Florida
with additional premium for 5 mos 12 ds ^{\$70.87}

Barton Ricketson now says, when the interest
on the balance of his note amounts to the interest on
the average from the time it was allowed, ^{say 5 June 1842} he will
pay the note -

I am respectfully yours
W. J Russell

New Bedford 2 July 1846

L. Cook Jr Esq
New York
D^r

Enclosed is a Bank check
for \$1619.02. Received on premium note n^o 10567
Edw^d Merrill Ship Emily Morgan -
prem. note - 1001.25
adⁿ prem 18 mos, 16 ds - 617.77 \$1619.02 -

I have heard nothing from Mr Ricketson
since I last wrote you relative to the payment of his
note -

Very truly yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 9 July 1846 -

L. Cook Jr Esq
New York
D^r

Enclosed is a Bank check
for \$83.35/100. amt^t rec^d on prem. note n^o 15885. Minerva
Edw^d M Robinson - vid -

prem. note - 70. "
adⁿ prem. 4 mos 20 ds - 13.35 \$83.35

On what terms shall I settle Mr Ricketson's
prem. note n^o 13221, when he is ready to settle -

Respectfully yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 18 July 1846.

John B Garland Esq
Fredericksburg Vir,^a
Dear Sir

Your son John arrived here last Tuesday & being some fatigued by his journey, I kept him at my house till yesterday to recruit - Yesterday morning I went to Fall River with him and placed him with Mr Mayhew where my son boarded & introduced him to the foreman of the Factory - As it was so near the end of the week I thought he had better not commence his labours, his labours before next Monday & in the mean time look round the Factory & get somewhat acquainted with his duties before he commenced work -

John has left twenty dollars with me & returned sufficient as he says for his present wants - He will need but very little pocket money, unless he is inclined to fool it away, there being but few temptations at Fall River for boys to spend money -

John appears to be a thoughtful & inconsiderate boy more of a boy than I expected to see one of his age, and is rather inexperienced to trust so far from home to be dependant upon his own resources - I hope he will have the energy & perseverance, so necessary to carry him successfully through the business he has chosen - He is well established to learn to be a manufacturer, and with Mr Mayhew he will be under good influences - it now rests with him to profit by these advantages & to make a respectable man -

I am respectfully yours

J. M. Russell

New Bedford 24 July 1846 -
Zebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Herewith I have forwarded
the statements of a claim ^{for} of average on Ship Caroline
& Barque Minerva, and shall wait your instructions
to settle them -

I remitted the amt of Mr Robinsons premium
note on Barque Minerva the 9th inst - \$83.35/100. it
being lodged in Bank for collection ~~and not paying~~
to no claim of average having been presented, or heard
of by me. I had no doubt the note would be paid
^{in full} at maturity, & therefore remitted it at once from my
own funds -

Respectfully yours
Wm T Russell

ad. prem. on Thacker & Co note no 13031

23 mos 18 ds - - - - - 668.66

prem. note - - - - - 511.25 1179.91

P. by Seabury note no 13032 334.32

note - - - - - 256.25 590.57

New Bedford 28 July 1846 -
Zebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Your favor of 25th inst is recd,
You are mistaken I believe in supposing the
loss on the Minerva was settled by General average,
if you will refer to the statement you will see
it is ~~settled~~ stated as a partial loss - I am assured
by the underwriters here, that they were satisfied
that the new chain, was of the same size & length
of the original one & the anchor about the same ^{weight} ~~load~~.
The chain & anchor were replaced here after the
arrival of the vessel -

Mr Richardson is out of town, but is expected
home tomorrow or next day. I thought it best
to wait his return, to give him the choice to pay

his note before putting it in suit -

Respectfully yours
Wm. T. Russell

New Bedford 31 July 1846
Leander Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Herewith is a remittance of
\$1069.67/100 as per statement -
no 13221. Ship Canada. B. Ricketson 361.25
addⁿ prem for 27 mos 9 ds 817. "
1178.25

Less average allowed - 204.60 973.65
no 14730. Falcon. Geo B Ricketson - 126.25
additional prem 10 mos 6 ds 53.12 1179.37
1133.02

Deduct E. M. Robinsons note no 15885

remitted 9th July, but remains unpaid - 83.35
\$1069.67

Your favor of 29th inst ~~was~~ is received -
Mr Robinson refuses to deduct the charge of \$10. for
making up the statement of the loss on the Minerva,
and says, ~~it~~ ^{it} was allowed by the officers here, & he
will ~~not~~ ^{submit} be sued, rather than deduct it. What shall
I do about it? - Mr Ricketson paid his note
you will see, rather than be sued, but with a good
deal of grumbling -

Respectfully yours
Wm. T. Russell

Since writing the above Mr Robinson has thought
better of it & called & paid the balance of his note
\$44.83/100, which is herewith remitted -

no 15885. Minerva E. M. Robinson. 70
additional prem. 4 mos 20 ds 13.35 83.35
Deduct partial loss - 38.52
\$44.83

Wm. T. Russell

New Bedford 29 Aug. 1846 -
Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Enclosed is a Bank check for
\$115.55/100. amount due on prem. note n^o 13077 - as per
statement

n^o 13077. Cambria - Dan Wood - 98.75
adⁿ prem. 6 m^o 16.80 \$115.55

I remain without any orders from you to settle
with the owners of the Caroline -

Very truly yours
Yours T. Russell

The above letter was not forwarded, there being
no additional premium due. The following
letter was substituted in its place -

New Bedford 29 Aug. 1846
Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

\$98.75/100
~~\$115.55/100~~ Enclosed is a Bank check for
amount of premium note ^{collected} n^o 13077. Ship
Cambria. Dan Wood -

I remain without any order from you to
settle with the owners of the Caroline -

Very truly yours
Yours T. Russell

New Bedford 5 Sept 1846.
Messrs W & J Bartow & Co please
send me by the first packet two baskets of Cham-
pagne in pints of their best brand & forward their
bill by mail of all they have charged to my Ac^t
& I will remit the amt - W. J. R.

New Bedford 8 Sept. 1846.

Zebulon Cook Jr Esq

Dear Sir

Your favor of yesterday's date is received.

I am surprised you have not received the statement of the ~~the~~ case of the Caroline - The documents making a large package, too large for the mail, were forwarded to you the 24th July by Godfreys express - I recollect leaving the package at the express office myself - I still think they were received at your office and have been mislaid - Let me know if you do not find them & I will send you a copy -

I am respectfully yours

Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 12 Sept 1846

Zebulon Cook Jr Esq

New York

Dear Sir

Your favor of 9th inst came to hand while I was absent from home -

I am satisfied you must have received the statement of the case of the Caroline, with ~~the~~ ~~the documents~~, for on referring to my letter to you dated 24 July I find that the statement of the claim of ~~the~~ ~~our~~ Mr Robison on your office for partial loss on Barge Minerva was forwarded in the same package by Godfreys express, and subsequently you instructed me to pay ^{to} Mr Robison ~~\$38.52~~ ~~pro~~ instead of ~~off~~ settle with Mr Robison deducting ten dollars charged for making up the statement - as both documents relating to the Caroline & the Minerva were forwarded together in one package, you could not have received one without the other - If you can find it, it will save the expense of a copy -

Very truly yours

Wm. J. Russell

Nashua 21 Apr 1846.

Mr Orin Baker
Fairfield
Lenawee County
Michigan

Respected friend

Your letter dated ^{1st} Jan^y is received. The lots you mention as having an application for. W¹/₂ N W¹/₄ - Sec 3 - T10 S - R 2 E - you are at liberty to sell at \$4.50⁰⁰ per acre or as you may also sell the lot on 34 for \$4 - Get as much money down as you can and make the credit on the balance short as possible -

I received a letter from Mr Harris last month stating that he had received some money of Mr Clark for amount of the 40 acre ~~lot~~ and had paid the taxes on my land in Lenawee County out of it, -

It has been a favorable season in this part of the country. The crops of Hay have been better than an average and Indian Corn has also done very well - but potatoes have generally failed. Some farmers have lost their entire crop by the rot - The disease seems to be universal, all over this country as well as in England & Ireland, and in consequence of their failure, grain of all kinds has lately risen - Flour & Indian Corn is now shipped to England to make up in part the loss of their potato crop - Flour sells here for \$5 per barrel & corn at 80 c -

My son Henry has entered a Cotton Factory at Fall River, a manufacturing town about 14 miles from this place, intending to qualify himself to take charge of a Factory by the time he is of age - With kind regards to your wife I remain your friend
W J Russell

New Bedford 21 Sep 1846.
Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

The Owners of Ship Caroline have furnished a ~~set~~ copy of Mr Tyles statement of his claim on the Underwriters, which is herewith forwarded. I am still confident that the original statement was sent to you & that it will yet ~~come to light~~ be found in your office.

I am respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 23 Sep 1846.
Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

On the receipt of your letter of 23rd inst I called on Mr Seabury the agent for the Ship Caroline for the protest & Log Book, which you wrote for, but he declined ^{putting them up of his own as} ~~giving them to me~~ ^{as a reason} ~~alleging~~ that he would not part with the only proof of his claim, ^{a copy of} that the Survey, protest, & bills had already been forwarded to you, but if they could not be found he would present the originals to you in person, with the Log book, but would not trust them out of ^{his} hands. If you wish to see Mr Seabury with all his documents, please let me know.

Respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 28 Sept 1846
John B Garland

Dear Sir

Your letter of 25th inst enclosing one for your son John came to hand last evening.

I do not blame John for ~~has~~ being dissatisfied with Mr Cook the owner of the mill, but he did

wrong in leaving the mill abruptly without consulting you or me - Mr Cook has not purporsed his agreement with me in regard to my son or yours. He put drugging upon them which he had no right to impose on them, and did not take that interest in giving them an opportunity to gain the most knowledge of the business which he promised. My son became so discontented that I placed him in another mill about two weeks ago. The first intimation which I had of John's leaving Mr Cook, was by a letter from him last week stating he had quarrelled with Mr Cook and left him, and had got a place in another mill, where he now remains, and perhaps the change will be all for the best.

John's greatest fault is his utter recklessness in money matters. He borrows money of any one who will lend him.

I have several times remonstrated with him about running in debt, but without effect. He has thrived me for money until he has sworbed up the \$40. which he left in my hands. The balance about \$12. I sent to him last week, to pay as he said borrowed money. He has besides spent what wages he has received, and nothing has yet been paid towards his board.

I shall be in Fall River in a few days and will see that John is fairly dilt by in the mill where he is now at work.

Your letter to him I shall forward by to day's mail.

I am respectfully yours
(Signed) Wm. S. Russell

New Bedford 29 Sept 1846 -
Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Mr Seabury has handed
me the Carolines Log Book which is herewith
forwarded to you by Godfrey's express, and also
a letter from Mr Seabury to you -

In justice to Mr Seabury I would say
that I believe him to be a conscientious man, and
what he states as facts may be relied upon -
Capt McKims character stands as high as
any other man in his profession from this port,
and I do not believe that either of them would
descend to any trickery to extort from under-
writers more than they believe to be their just due
nevertheless they may be mistaken in their opinion
of what is legally their due -

I am respectfully yours
Ypsom J Russell

S Bartow Hc
New York
Gent

New Bedford 29 Sept 1846

Enclosed is a Bank check
for \$43.12/100 the amt of your bill
The enclosed bill please return by mail
accepted
Yours
Ypsom J Russell

New Bedford 5 Oct. 1846

Lebedu Cook & Esq

New York

Dear Sir

Herewith you have a Bank check for \$35.62/100 amt collected on prem. note no 17070. Ship Cicero James Luscomb - as per statement -

prem. note no 17070 -	38.75
additional prem. 6 mos -	<u>12.50</u>
	51.25
deduct average -	<u>15.63</u>
	<u>\$35.62</u>

The average was caused by the Cicero being run into by another Ship while cruising on the North west coast - having her bowsprit sprung, head stays carried away & some injury about the hull - the damage was repaired without putting into port, and on the arrival of the Ship, ^{her} a compromise was made with the New Bedford officers - and as it all appeared fair & is a small matter I took the liberty of allowing it without consulting you -

Very truly yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 22 Oct. 1846

J. B. Garland Esq

Fredricksburg Va

Dear Sir

Your favor of 19th inst came to hand this morning, enclosing a Bank check on New York for one hundred dollars to be applied to the payment of your sons expenses at Fall River - I shall immediately pay his board bill & appropriate the balance for any necessary articles of clothing that he may need, as you have requested -

I have not been in Fall River for some time & cannot speak from personal observation of John, but my son Henry was at home last week & told me he was pursuing his occupation at the White Mill.

with industry, and is in the way of gaining knowledge
of his business - but received no wages -

Respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 23 Oct 1846.

L. Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

Enclosed are ~~premiums~~
~~notes of~~ Wm R Rodmans prem. notes n^o 11310
Ship August^{21.25} - and 11206 Ship Rebecca Sims
\$421.25 - returned to you as you requested

Respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 27 Oct 1846 -

A C Harris Esq
Adrian. Michigan

Dear Sir

Your favor of 29 Sep. came
duly to hand - Herewith is forwarded my deed
to Dorman Clark duly executed as you directed
of Lot sold to him by J R Williams as my agent
viz NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec 12 - T9S. R 3 E -
in Lucas County Ohio. for \$120 - Please remit
the proceeds by draft on N York or Boston -

Respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford Nov 3rd 1846
Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

According to the
request of my Father, I send you enclosed
two premium notes on Ship Caroline
Nos. 13031. 13032.

Respectfully yours
Gilbert Russell

New Bedford Nov 28th 1846
Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Your favour of the 27th
inst came to hand this morning.

The Brig Mary Helen is now here..
has discharged her Cargo, made all necessary
repairs and is reloading. The Cargo is not
at all damaged with the exception of a few
barrels, which Mr Grinnell the wreck Master
here tells me will not amount to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent
on a general average, and that in all
probability the Officers will not be called
upon. The repairs on the vessel amount to
about eight hundred dollars.

Respectfully yours
W^m Russell
By Gilbert Russell

New Bedford 18 Jan'y. 1847.

C. Bond Esq
Macon Geo.

Dear Sir

Mr Bennett & myself arrived home the latter part of Decr without any accident and in good health except colds. The natural consequence of the sudden change of climate in having your delightful winter weather for the cold storms of the north - The weather has been however, comparatively mild thus far this winter with us, but yet we have had some days when the thermometer has been down to 14° and of course plenty of ice -

I would ask the favor of to question Mr Gray, the owner of the Pine Knot creek water privilege, when you see him and try to draw from him the lowest price he would sell it at for cash - (You know he asked us \$8000 for the ^{water} privilege of the ~~mill~~ including the Mills & all the improvements with 200 acres of land surrounding it - This we considered an exorbitant price - If he is now ready to sell at a reasonable price I think we might be induced to make up a company and purchase it and erect a Cotton Factory - when a cotton Factory is built it would be the means of building up a village and must enhance the value of the rest of his land -

Please write me as soon as you conveniently can on the subject. I oblige

Respectfully yours

Yours J. Russell

New Bedford 8 Feb. 1847
C. J Hastings & Co
Boston
Gent

Enclosed is a Bank check for
\$69.15/100 being your half of the balance of storage
of Oil in Oil works shea received by me, as per
Statement at foot -

I approve of your lease of the Oil works -
Capt. Butler is using his own bags, ours being too
much worn. The strainers he is using are our strainers
I say to the understanding with you was to ~~make~~
~~them as good as when he replaced them as good as he~~
received them -

I am respectfully yours
W. J Russell

1847 1/5	Received of J. H. Perry for storage of Oil -	54.90
2/6	Recd of Messrs Gibbs for ditto -	90.00
		<u>144.90</u>
	Deduct A. A. Greene & Co carpenter's bill for repairs of shed &c -	6.60
		<u>138.30</u>
	C. J Hastings & Co half -	69.15
	My half -	69.15
		<u>138.30</u>

New Bedford 15 Feby. 1847

L. Cook Jr Esq

Dear Sir

Your favor of 13th inst is received
I cannot ^{find} any record of having received for
collection James Arnolds premium note for insurance
on Ship Wm & Eliza from Rio in 1844. for \$91.25 -

The note was forwarded to you 20 May 1844
enclosed in my letter of that date. I do not
think the note was ever ~~for~~ sent to me for
collection. It was either paid by Mr Arnold
at your office, or the note is still in your possession.
I have not been able to see Mr Arnold this
morning to enquire of him about it -

I am respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 20 Feby 1847

L. Cook Jr Esq

New York

Dear Sir

Enclosed is a Bank check
for \$91.25/100 the amt of James Arnold prem.
note n^o 16778. Ship Wm & Eliza from Rio -
which you sent me for collection under cover of
your letter of 16th inst. - Mr Arnold declined
all claim any interest, which I suppose he had
a right to do under the circumstances -

Respectfully yours
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 21 March 1847
Lebedu Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Mr Francis S Hathaway
has called on me to enquire respecting a premium
note he gave on Bogue Lark Policy N^o 16923
dated June 5th 1844 & renewed 30 Apr 1845. The note
he says has not been presented to him for payment -
It is probably in your possession & has been overlooked.

Respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 23 March 1847
L. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Your favor of 22 inst enclosing
F S Hathaway's prem. note for collection is at hand -
Mr Hathaway claims a return prem. of $\frac{1}{2}\%$. The
policy stipulates that if the Lark did not proceed
to a port north of Guayaquil then should ^{be} a return
premium of $\frac{1}{2}\%$. ^{as my agent says} making the return premium
for 2 years 1% of \$120 - Mr Hathaway will make
his affidavit that the vessel did not proceed
north of Guayaquil - I shall wait to hear
from you again before I settle with him -
He will allow interest -

Respectfully yrs
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 29 March 1847
 Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
 New York
 D^r Sir

Confinement at the house
 by illness has prevented me from attending to the
 settlement of Mr Hathaways note before to day -

Herewith you have inclosed a Bank check
 for \$408.06/100 - amt received on Francis S
 Hathaways premium note n^o 16923. Bargue
 Lack as per mem. at foot -

Respectfully yours
 W. T. Russell

Prem. note 16.923 for	481.25
Lep return prem. 1/2 %	<u>60</u>
	421.25

Int from 5/8. 1845 to 9/8. 1846 at which time the policy was renewed - -	<u>33.69</u>
	454.94

Lep return prem 1/2 % - - -	<u>60.</u>
due 9/8. 1846 - - -	394.94

Int to March 29. 1847.	<u>13.12</u>
	\$408.06

New Bedford 19 May 1847
 Z. Cook Jr Esq
 D^r Sir

Enclosed is a Bank check for \$267.83/100
 amt received for the following prem. notes

n ^o 16140. Ship Iris. Edu ^d C Jones	151.25	
additional prem. 9 mos 17 ds	<u>47.83</u>	199.08
18832 Ship Electra J ^r Spinnell	- - -	<u>68.75</u>
		\$267.83

Illness has prevented me from collecting these notes
 before -

Respectfully yours
 W. T. Russell

New Bedford 25 May 1847.

Mr Orin Baker

Fairfield, Lenawee county

Michigan -

Respected friend - Your letter dated 13th of last month was received in due time, but sickness has prevented me from answering it before today - I am now recovering slowly with every probability of being restored to my usual health -

I am ^{not} disposed to take back the ^{160 acres of} land sold to J. Carver - Such improvements as he has made, will be of no value to me, they will not enhance the value of the property one dollar - It will not sell I presume for one dollar more for such improvements as you say he has made - You must insist upon his paying the taxes & interest on the purchase money, & hold the crop of wheat in the ground responsible for the same - I presume there is some law in Ohio making a man responsible for his just debts a legal agreement & for his just debts & the crop of wheat will afford Carver the means of fulfilling his agreement with me -

I wish you however to consult Mr A C Harris of Adrian ^{or this business} that you may proceed legally & be governed by his advice & in proof that I requested you to consult him show him this letter - his fees I will be responsible for -

In reply to your enquiry respecting the great estate in England said to have descended to the Moskows & Chases in the United States, I remember to have heard some three or four years ago such a report - and ~~the~~ families of that name (which are quite numerous in this part of the Country), sent to England to enquire into the truth of the story, which resulted in there being no truth in it - it was all a fable - These reports of there being great estates in England that would descend to heirs in the United States have been very common of late years, but I scarcely know of one that has proved true - I have seen a report very lately going the rounds in the newspapers that an estate of twenty five millions would descend to the Lawrences of New York, and another of fifty millions to the Jennings of Maine, but

I don't believe a word of it. Be content with your snug farm & you will be more happy than with a great English estate.

The farmers all over the Country are now reaping the benefit of exorbitantly high prices for their produce in consequence of the great scarcity of provisions in Europe. In Ireland & Scotland in particular the poorer class of people are literally starving - and ship load after ship load of provisions are being sent from our sea ports daily to their relief. This great scarcity must be felt next year in a great degree even if the crops in Europe are good this year, and we may expect high prices for grain to continue in 1848. I would therefore advise you to sow all the ground you ^{possibly} can next fall with wheat. All kinds of provisions are exceptionally high in New Bedford at this time. I paid last week ten dollars for a barrel of flour for my family. Corn is 120 cents per bushel. best prices of fresh Beef ^{& mutton} 15 cents per pound, poultry 17 cents. we have nothing cheap ^{of potatoes} but fish, & they are very abundant & very good.

The Spring is unusually backward in this part of the Country full two weeks later than usual, but ~~this is no evidence~~ Peach, Cherry & Pear trees are but just in full bloom & the forest trees scarcely show any green colour. The immigration of foreigners to this country will be ~~as~~ greater than ever was known already immense numbers have arrived in Boston & New York & they are daily arriving - every ship from Europe bringing from 100 to 300. Most of them are farmers bound to the Western States to settle on wild land, & must cause land to be in demand in Michigan as well as the other new states. Henry is learning to be a Cotton manufacturer in Fall River, a manufacturing town about 14 miles from here. He has made very good progress in the business & expects to be competent to take the management of a Factory by the time he is of age. He was at home a few days since & I showed him

your letter - He wished to be remembered to you
& your wife -

With my kind regards to your wife
I remain very truly your friend

W. T. Russell

New Bedford 2 June 1847

Mr J R Gibson
New York
Dear Sir

Have the goodness to send me
immediately by Godfrey's express a tub of new butter -
If you have none on hand that you can recommend
please send the first tub you receive from the
country & oblige your old customer

Yours Truly
W. T. Russell

6th Mo 25th Deposited in the Merchants Bank for
Collection the following Prom. Notes.

No 16867 Hope	Wiley & Richmond	\$601.25	
	ad Prom		<u>280.10.881.35</u>
No 19729 Barye Rajah	Thos ^d Bennett	46.25	
	ad Prom		<u>424.50.49</u>
No 17506 ditto	Thos Bennett	293.75	
	ad Prom		<u>96.28</u> 390.03
No 21442 ditto	Thos. Bennett	76.25	<u>76.25</u>

New Bedford 28 June 1847

Lebeder Cook & Co
New York
Dear Sir

Enclosed is a Bank Check for
\$705.50/100, being the amt^t specified for the two following
prom. notes -

No 14754 - Mepenger, In ^r R Thornton	491.25
15109. Roscoe, Sam ^r Rodman	181.25
ad ^r prom.	<u>33. "</u>
	<u>214.25</u>
	\$705.50

(over)

These are the only prem. notes among the last you
forwarded that I have yet been able to collect -
Edu C Jones declines paying the prem. on Ship
Govr Troup n^o 17102 alleging as a reason that
he has a claim of average - ^{for which he is as an agent} Mr Rodman also
declines paying Mr Riddells prem. note on Ship
Geo. Porter n^o 15116, alleging that he has claims
on your office on his own account - This is an
unreasonable excuse - for I know that Mr Riddell
who now resides in Boston, left funds in Mr Rodmans
hands, to pay his note - to oblige him to pay it
there is no alternative but to put it in suit -
~~The other notes which are due~~, I have the promise
that the other notes which are due will shortly
be paid - New Bedford merchants have had
so much indulgence by the office here, that
they do not feel bound to pay a prem. note until
it is perfectly convenient -

I am respectfully yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 2 July 1847
Debedee Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

Your two favors both dated
yesterday are received, I have returned herewith
as you requested Thos Riddells prem. note
n^o 15116, Ship Geo Porter - and Edu C Jones's n^o 17102
Ship Govr Troup -

Very truly yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 15 July 1847.
James B Congdon Esq
Cash & Mch^t Bank

Please cash the enclosed
notes & pass them to my credit -

D. Due favor Drew Robinson & Co
dated Jan'y 19. 1846 at 8 mos - 125.67

Same & same date at 12 mos 128.47
\$254.14

And collect the enclosed prem. note. Cook & Snows
for \$245.56 due 22 inst.

Drews notes were given in behalf of the "New
Jersey Steam Boat Navigation Com'y" -
(The Stonington boats), and will undoubtedly be
paid when presented -

Very truly Yours
Wm^t J. Russell

New Bedford 19 July 1847.
Lebedus Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Enclosed is a Bank check
on New York for \$259.44/100. being the amt.
collected on the two following notes -

N^o 14785. James Henry Houland. Ship

Mepenger - 105.63

add prem 8 mos & dt - 24.09 129.72

same number } Edward Houland same ship 105.63

same policy } add prem. same - 24.09 129.72
\$259.44

Respectfully yours
Wm^t J. Russell

New Bedford 28 July 1847
Lebedev Cook & Co
New York

Dear Sir

Enclosed is a Bank
check for \$1126.91/100. amt received for the
following premium notes collected -

14867 Hope, Wilson & Richmond	601.25	
ad ^m prem. 11 mo 6 ds	<u>280.10</u>	881.35
15256 Equator Cook & Snow -	203.75	
ad ^m prem -	<u>41.81</u>	245.56
		<u>\$1126.91</u>

I have ascertained that the Duc D'Orleans
sailed Aug 7. 1841 - arrived March 5. 1844 -
Salamander sailed June 27. 1841 - arrived
March 6. 1844 - I have not been able to get
the time of the Eurapias arrival at Bremen -
Respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

Is there any additional prem. to be charged
on the following prem. notes you sent me for
collection -

L. Tripp 17691 -	134.25
Gibbs & Janney 15576	901.25
do 17690	271.25

As the insurance was not done through me. I have
no means of ascertaining -
W. J. R

New Bedford 4 Aug. 1847

Editors of the Journal of Commerce
New York
Gent^l

Enclosed is five dollars
subscription to the Journal of Commerce -
please acknowledge the receipt of it & say
how long I shall be entitled to receive it for
this sum - and discontinue it at the expiration
of that time, unless ordered to be continued -
Yr obt Servt
W. J Russell

New Bedford 18 Aug. 1847

Orin Baker
Fairfield
Lenawee County
Michigan -

Wrote to enquire about
the 160 acre lot sold of Carver, who wanted to give
up his bargain, to which I declined. how had he
settled it &c. enclosed a paragraph cut from the
Atlas respecting the Chase estate in England -
Age of crops &c -

New Bedford 19 Aug. 1847 -

Orin Baker
Fairfield. Respectful friend

I wrote to you yesterday morning, and
the evening mail of that day brought me your letter
dated the 19th of this month. As Carver's crop of wheat
you say is not worth harvesting & he has nothing else
to pay with, there seems to be no alternative but to let
him off from his bargain, by his giving up the papers
& get the \$5 of him if you can - You may sell the lot
again at the same price Carver was to pay for it, but
stipulate for some money to be paid down, to make
the bargain binding say \$15 or \$20 - (over)

Presuming you would like to see the prices
current in this part of the world, I have cut
them from a Boston paper & enclose them -
I remain your friend
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 1st Sept 1847.

Mr Orin Baker
Fairfield Lenawee County
Mich. - Respectful friend

I have received your letter, stating
you had an offer of \$4.50/100 per acre for the lot
of 80 acres on Sec. 3 Township of Dover - the purchaser
to pay \$25 in advance to bind the bargain - to have
six years credit to pay the principal, that is to pay
1/6th every year & interest annually & all taxes - On
these terms you may sell it -

~~I regret to hear that you are out of health
& that sickness prevails so much in Adrian~~

With much respect yr friend

W. J. Russell

New Bedford 2 Sept 1847

Lebudee Cook Jr Esq
New York

Dear Sir

Enclosed is a remittance

of \$1580.52/100 collected on the following prom. notes
no 19729. Tho Bennett & Rajah 46.25

adn prem - 4.24 - 50.49

17506 do do 293.75

adn prem. 96.28 - 390.03

20442 do do 76.25

15576 - Gibbs & Fenney, London Packet - 901.25

adn prem. - 162.50 1063.75

\$1580.52

Respectfully yours

W. J. Russell

New Bedford 19 Oct. 1847
Lebedeu Cook & Coy
New York

Dear Sir

Enclosed is a Bank
check for \$617.70/100 received for the following
premium notes -
no 17690. Gibbs & Jenney. Ship Marcus 271.25
adⁿ prem. - - 101.25 372.50
17691. Lent Tripp - Same 134.35
adⁿ prem. - - 110.95 245.20
\$617.70

Respectfully yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 6 Decr 1847
Lebedeu Cook & Coy
New York

Dear Sir

Enclosed is a Bank check
for \$110.17/100. Amount received for premium note
no 17885 - as per statement
no 17885. Ship Roman. Geo. Tappan 80.
adⁿ prem. 8 mos 26 ds - - 29.08
109.08

2 mos Int. 54c
\$109.63 \$109.63

Prem. notes no 17204 & 17205, which you forwarded
for collection, will be due the 15th of this month.

Respectfully yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 7 Decr. 1847
Messrs. Morrison & Willis
Editors of the Home Journal. New York

Enclosed is two dollars for my subscrip-
tion to the Home Journal for another year.
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 10 Dec 1847
 Joseph R Williams Esq
 Constantine
 St Josephs County
 Michigan
 Dear Sir

The payment of the
 note dated Aug 1. 1845 for \$756 payable on
 demand with interest signed by you as agent
 of the Constantine Flour Mill would be very
 acceptable to me at this time - As this has been
 I understand a prosperous year for the Mill
 I thought ^{perhaps} it would be quite convenient for
 you to pay the note this winter or at least a
 part of it - I have been out of health upwards
 of six months & unable to attend to any business
 & am still confined to the house most of the
 time & consequently my money matters are a
 good deal straitened - Pray do all you
 can for me & oblige your sincere friend
 W. T. Russell

New Bedford 27 Dec 1847
 Lebedee Cook Jr Esq
 New York
 Dr Sir

Herewith you have a Bank
 check for \$408.9/100, amt collected on the following
 notes -

17204	Jno S. Taber; Good Return	86.75	
	add prem 14 mo 15 ds	51.65	138.40
17205	Same	167.75	
	add prem. 14 mo 15 ds	100.59	268.34
			406.74
			1.35
			\$408.09

Interest

Jno S Taber has requested me to enquire about his
 script. If there is any due please forward it to me
 Very truly yours
 W. T. Russell

28th
New Bedford 28th March 1848

Orin Baker
Fairfield, Lenawee Co.
Mich.

Respected friend

Your letter dated 17th of last Jan'y, has remained a long time unanswered. It was received at the time I was confined by severe illness - was mislaid & for a time forgotten & has but lately come to light - You say you have made a sale of an 80 acre lot in the Oak openings - E 1/2 of S 1/4 Sec 35 - T 9 - S of R 2 E in the town of Chesterfield at \$4.25 per acre - for which you have received \$50 in cash - and L L Beebe's note for \$75 - \$100 to be paid the 1st of next Nov^r & the remainder \$115. one year from that time with interest annually - I approve of this arrangement ~~all~~ except Beebe's note, no matter how good his reputation for ability to pay it may be - I would not take any man's note for land, without ample security - But I trust from your account of Beebe that it will be punctually paid -

Instead of ~~the~~ remitting the money you have received, I wish you take this money & pay the taxes on ~~my land~~ all my lots, a list of which I believe I left with you - & send me the receipts -

My health has very much improved of late but I am still confined to the house - write to me as soon as you have paid the taxes - I hope I shall be well enough to visit Michigan next summer - with my regards to your wife & family I remain

your friend
W. J. Russell

New Bedford May 3. 1848.
Messrs Wilkinson & Geddes
Adrian, Michigan (Lenawee County)
Gentⁿ,

Your favor of 21st ultimo, with statement of taxes due on my land in Lenawee County for 1846 & 1847 is received - for your attention to this business I am very much obliged - I have money in Orin Baker's hands sufficient to pay these taxes & wrote to him last March requesting him to pay them, but it seems he has not attended to it - I shall write to him by this mail to pay the money over to you & request you will pay the taxes & send me the receipts -

I am respectfully yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford May 3. 1848 -
Orin Baker
Fairfield, Lenawee County
Mich.

Respected friend -

I have received a letter from A C Harris dated 20th Apr^l informing me he was about removing to Buffalo & had transferred his business in Adrian to Wilkinson & Geddes - Wilkinson & Geddes have sent me a statement of taxes due on my land in Lenawee County for 1846 & 1847, amounting with interest, calculated to 15th of this month to \$34.40 - Have the goodness to call on them & pay them this amount & their charges out of the money you have received for my account - I wrote you the 28th March requesting you to pay the taxes on my land, but I think you had better pay the money over to them & let them settle them. with much regard

Your friend
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 30 May 1848

Lebedu Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

The premium notes sent to me for collection from your office under date of 29th inst, were not taken through my agency, with the exception of two or three, of course I have no means of ascertaining how much additional premium, or if any is due on them - please send me a statement giving the additional premium, & the time when the notes were due of such as are past due -

Respectfully yours
Wm. T. Russell

New Bedford 12 Jun 1848

Leb. Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Your letters of 8th & 9th inst. both came to hand on Saturday. The information you ask for I could not obtain to write you by that days mail - The Du de Orleans arrived at Havre 26 Apr 1847 - No one here has any knowledge of the Europa, but I am referred to the following German houses in New York among whom you will be likely to hear when she arrives -

I have been very unsuccessful in collecting the prem. notes you sent me, not having yet received a dollar - but those who have no claim for loss, promise to pay soon, money is extremely tight here at this time in consequence of there being no foreign demand for whole Oil - The following say they have claims on your office & decline paying their notes before they are adjusted - M Thacker H^y 13031 - P G Seabury 13032 - Nathan Church 17447 & 17419 - Phineas Terry 9166 & 18281 - F R Whitwell 18280 - D R Green 16201 -

Respectfully yours
Wm. T. Russell

New Bedford 21st June 1848

Zebulon Cook Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Your favor of 16th came to hand during my absence of a few days from home. I now hasten to answer your enquiries respecting Ship Pacific of New Brunswick.

She is insured in New Bedford at the Com^d office (Capt Crocker) for \$15,000. & at the Merchants for \$10,000. An abandonment was presented to the office here upwards of two years ago, subsequently papers relative to the loss were sent her, which were returned to the owners, being incorrect & inadmissible, since which ~~no action has been taken~~ they have not heard from the owners & nothing more has been done in the business. The Captain still remains in the Pacific Ocean. Capt Crocker is of opinion that so much time has elapsed since the papers were returned - about two years that no claim for loss will be made on the underwriters. Mr Green who effected the insurance is only an agent for the owners of the Pacific. he is now out of town, when he returns, if I can get any further information from him I will write you again on the subject.

I am respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 11 July 1848

Zebulon Cook Esq
New York
(Dear Sir

Your favor of 8th inst requesting information respecting Sch^r Alfred I have received.

The Alfred had taken 850 bbls Sperm Oil previous to going into Sydney last Jan. a part of which was landed at Tahiti to be shipped to the U. States & part landed at Sydney which has since been shipped to London. She left Sydney clear, on another cruise, with stores sufficient to last 20 months.

The plan of the voyage was as I presume you know, to be absent about five years, with the expectation of obtaining a large quantity of Sperm Oil within that period and shipping it to the United States or London, as often as ~~the~~ ^{the vessel} she filled & return home at the end of five years or sell ~~her~~ if practicable in the Pacific Ocean -

In a letter from Capt Davenport to his owners, an extract of which I have been allowed to take he says - "I am not at all concerned about doing well with the Alfred, we can get ^a whale at any time when a ship can & many times when a ship cannot. I certainly would prefer this vessel on the old cruising ground to the best ship - & she is all I looked for among Islands & Reefs - laying within 4 1/2 points of the wind & going 8 knots close haul - and carries her boats as safe as any ship I ever was in." Capt Davenport is part owner of the Alfred & is deeply interested in the ^{success of the} voyage - He has the reputation of being a good whaler & very efficient ship master & Messrs. Pope & Morgan place unlimited confidence in his honesty & integrity & judicious management of the voyage -

~~I have no further information respecting the Pacific of New Brunswick~~

Mr Grune says the Owners of the Pacific of New Brunswick have not given up their claim on the underwriters & are waiting for papers from the Pacific Ocean - Capt Crocker believes they will ^{be able to} ~~now~~ make out ~~their~~ ^a claim -

I have promises but no money yet for the prem. notes -

Very truly yours
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 15 July 1848
Zebedee Cook & Co
New York
Dear Sir

Your letter of 13th inst enclosed with
your letter & also one from the office of the New York
Insurance Co directed to Mess Pope & Morgan, requesting
me to deliver them & make a memorandum of the same
are received - I have delivered the letters into their
hands & have made a memorandum that you consider
the policies on the Sch^r Alfred cancelled on & after
the 1st of Jan^y 1848 -

Respectfully yours
W. T. Russell

I delivered the above mentioned letters to Pope &
Morgan 15 July. 1848. - The contents of them were
that they considered the Policies on the Sch^r Alfred
cancelled on & after the 1st of Jan^y 1848. - The policies
they considered ^{became} void by discharging her Oil at Sydney
& refitting for a new cruise. - Besides they have the
liberty of cancelling the policy at any time after
one year. - They expected the Alfred to pursue
an ordinary whale voyage & return home when
full, whereas the plan of the voyage as now made
known by Pope & Morgan is. for the vessel to be
absent about five years & as often as ~~at~~ with the
expectation of obtaining a large quantity of Sperm
Oil within that period & shipping it to the
U. States or London as often as she filled -
I have made this Mem. in case I should be called
on to give my evidence in the case - W. T. Russell

New Bedford 12 Sep 1848
Mr Isaac S Smith
Buffalo
Dear

Your draft for taxes paid by you on my water lots at Black Rock came unexpectedly upon me, when it was inconvenient to pay even so small a sum & at a time when illness disabled me from attending to business matters - There is no doubt it is justly your due & that it ought to be paid - I have annexed a draft on Saml W Haines for the amount \$22.40/100, and it will be a hard case if he cannot pay this sum on account of the large amount which he is owing me - ~~where the taxes paid by you~~ - The Black Rock lots are owned jointly by Gideon Allen & myself. The taxes you paid were I presume on the whole of each lot, in that case he will owe me for one half the amt of taxes -

Very truly your friend
W. F. Russell

New Bedford 14 Sep 1848 -
Mr Saml W Haines
Buffalo
Dear

I have drawn on you in favor of Isaac S Smith for \$22.40/100 - the amount he has paid for taxes on the Black Rock Water lots, which have the goodness to pay -

I had hoped to receive something from you in this time on account of your note - the interest at least you might pay me - Make an effort & try to do something for me this Fall - I need it exceedingly -

Very truly yours
W. F. Russell

New Bedford 29 Sept. 1848

Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Enclosed is a schedule of the premium rates in my possession, which you requested me to give you in your letter of yesterday's date - not one of them which you sent me last June has been paid - Gibbs & Jenny. (Ship Albion) Ellery T Taber - Jno R Thornton & Stephen Potter, make no claim ~~now~~ on your office, but please an ^{& probably will pay when they are ready for a suit} intention of doing so - All the others say they have a claim for loss. I have promised to ^{present} ~~forward~~ their claims to you or to hand them to me to forward - but none have been handed to me -

Very truly yours
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 4 Oct. 1848

Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Your favor of 2nd inst is at hand. The premium notes which you name as being uncashed ^{for independence sent you 29 ulto} ~~counted over~~ - 18281 - 18280 - 9166 - were left handed over to Messrs Clifford & Brigham by your direction - as per your letter of 16 June last -

Very truly yours.
W. T. Russell

New Bedford 7th Dec^r 1848
Zebulon Cook Jr Esq
New York
Dear Sir

Herewith you have a Bank Check
for \$982.84/100. Amt rec^d of Gibbs & Jenney & Co. Allen
as per statement - These are the only ones who have
come forward to pay their premium notes. All the
other notes which were in my possession I have
handed over to Clifford & Brigham this day
according to your order -

I am respectfully yours
W. T. Russell

18.879- Gibbs & Jenney - Ship Sharon	601.25	
~~18.880- Edmund Allen - do~~		
additional premium	284.17	
Interest - - -	13.28	898.70
18.880 Edmund Allen - Sharon	56.25	
additional premium -	26.65	
Interest	1.24	84.14
		<u>\$982.84</u>

Silas Kempton to W. T. Russell D^r
1834

Apr 28. To 2 bbls. Sperm Whale Oil 67 gals @ 80 c	53.60
less 3 c per gal. for bbls returned	2.01
	51.59
14 years interest to Apr 1848 -	43.33

Mr Silas Kempton. N. Bedford
Sir \$94.92

Above is my bill for 2 bbls Sperm Oil
sold you so long ago as 1834. This bill is justly my due -
and now, that you are abundantly able, I hope you
will do yourself the justice as well as myself to pay it
and oblige yours

New Bedford
16 Dec^r 1848 -
W. T. Russell

New Bedford Nov 18. 1848

Messrs. Murphy & Baxter
Jonesville
Hillsdale County
Michigan
Gentⁿ

Your letter of 6th. inst. enclosing a draft on New York for forty nine 50/100 has been received - It being for fifty dollars received by you of Luther Hammond for an eighty acre lot of land sold ~~in Hillsdale County~~ to Mr Hammond in Hillsdale County. less 50¢ for exchange ^{for this lot}. The Deed ^{for this lot} which you requested me to send you will please find enclosed - The balance ^{due} you say will be paid on the delivery of the Deed - which you will please remit in the same way by draft on New York, after ~~paying yourselves~~ ^{deducting} the customary commission for your agency -

Respectfully yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 25 Dec 1848

Messrs. Murphy & Baxter
Jonesville Hillsdale Co. Mich.
Gentⁿ

Enclosed is my deed to Luther Hammond now returned ^{to you}, legally executed. I trust, with the Clerk of the Courts certificate attached -

I have no knowledge of the taxes on my land in Lenawee Co being paid. - Have the goodness to enquire of the collector of taxes - & if not paid - pay them out of the funds in your hands -

Very truly yours
W. J. Russell

New Bedford 4 March 1849
Messrs. Wilkinson & Geddes
Adrian, Seneca Co. Mich.
Gent,

Your favor of 17 ult^o has been received -
inclosing a statement of the drainage tax, & also the
State County & town taxes, on my land in Seneca
Co. - The drainage tax appears to me to be exor-
bitant - And the legality of it you say is questionable
& your advice is, not to pay it at present.

The constitutionality of the law no doubt will
be tested, by some one more deeply interested than I
am - We will wait & see how it will be decided -
If there is a possibility of avoiding such extortion
I shall certainly be very glad to avail myself of
it. - The State, County & town tax must be
paid - I have no knowledge of how much money
Mr Baker holds belonging to me - if it is not
sufficient to pay the tax \$19.71, please let me
know, and I will remit the balance, immediately
annexed is an order on him to pay you to your
satisfaction there may be -

With many thanks for your attention to my
affairs - I am respectfully Yours
Wm. J. Russell.

New Bedford 4 March 1849. -
Please pay to the order of Messrs Wilkinson
& Geddes what money ^{you} I may have in your hands
belonging to me - an oblige Yours
To Orrin Baker Wm. J. Russell
Fairfield, Seneca Co
Mich. -

Since closing my letter, I have concluded to give you
an order on Murphy & Best of Jonesville, for the amt of taxes as per
your statement \$19.71/100 - They have funds in their hands belonging
to me - and the amt due from Mr Baker may not be sufficient. -
Please present my respects to Mr Baker & ask him to send me a state-
ment of his A/c. -

Hon Henry Clay.
Dear Sir. <sup>This letter was not
forwarded</sup>

New Bedford 22 March 1849.

Your fellow passenger in the Ship Louisa from Liverpool to New York in 1815, takes the liberty of addressing you to solicit your influence with President Taylor towards obtaining the Collectorship of this port.

For my qualifications for that office and the general satisfaction my appointment will give to the business men of New Bedford I refer you to the accompanying letter from Mr. Henry Grinnell of New York.

If you feel at liberty to address a letter to President Taylor in my behalf, and will forward it to me by mail, to be made use of with other arguments - You will confer a favor on one, who has been your sincere friend and admirer, through every political crisis which you have passed.

Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 22nd March 1849.

Dear Brother,

Enclosed herewith is my letter to Henry Clay, asking his aid in my behalf towards obtaining the Collectorship of this port. If you feel at liberty to give the recommendation referred to in that letter, after hearing from Laurence the evidence he will give you that my appointment will give general satisfaction to the people of New Bedford - and you and Moses believe that Mr. Clay has any influence with the President - I beg the favor of you to address a letter to him on the subject, and enclose it with mine, or destroy it as you may think best. - I have consulted Joseph. he thinks it well for the letter to go forward.

Sincerely Yours
Wm. J. Russell.

New Bedford 22 March 1849.

J. P. Hutchinson Esq
Philadelphia
Dear Sir

This letter
was not forwarded

I am a candidate for the
collectorship of this port - and am desirous to obtain
a recommendation from some personal friend of
Mr Meredith, Secy of the Treasury, to aid me in secur-
ing that appointment. -

The accompanying letter from our mutual friend
M H Grinnell is evidence of ~~the~~ my qualification
for the office, & of the general satisfaction my appoint-
ment will give the people of New Bedford -

If your acquaintance with Mr. Meredith will
warrant it, and you feel at liberty to address a letter
to him in my behalf - and will forward it to me by
mail, to be made use of with other documents, you
will confer a favor on your old & sincere friend -

W. T. Russell

New Bedford 30 May 1849.

J. W. McCulloch Esq
Comptroller
Treasury Department
Washington City
Sir

Enclosed herewith
you will please find the bond required of me
as Collector of the Port & District of New Bedford
and which I trust will be satisfactory to the
Department -

I am very respectfully
your obt Servt
Wm T. Russell

New Bedford 1st June 1849.

R. H. Gillet Esq
Solicitor, of the Treasury Department
Washington City
Sir

Your favor of 16th
ultimo ~~was received this morning~~ - prescribing
the form which a Collector bond should be
given according to the Act of 3rd March 1849,
was ~~duy~~ received this morning -

I had previously received from
J. W. McCulloch Esq Comptroller a blank
bond, with similar directions, addressed to
me as Collector of the Port & District of New
Bedford - This bond was executed according
to the form & manner required by the Treasury
Department and was forwarded to Mr McC
Culloch the 30th ultimo - I shall wait to
hear from you whether that bond is approved
of by the Department, or whether it will be
necessary to make out a new bond from the
blank form which you have sent to me -

I am respectfully

Your obt Servt
Wm. J. Russell

New Bedford 2nd June 1849
Hon. Daniel Webster
Boston

Dear Sir

Your note recommending
a certain man to be appointed to a certain
Revenue Office, was received this morning - The
appointment shall be made agreeable to your
wishes, and without the knowledge of your having
had any thing to do with it. -

I wrote a note to you immediately after
having received my appointment, expressing my

gratitude for your effective support, which I forwarded
to Washington, having heard you was on your way there.
I mention it to show that I have not been neglectful
in acknowledging my obligation to you. -

I will not undertake to express in words my
dear Sir the gratitude I feel, not merely for the Office
for which I am indebted to you, but for the kind &
obliging manner with which you supported my claim.
It binds me to you in devoted attachment, which I
shall be proud to show whenever an occasion calls
for it -

I am in great truth

Your devoted friend

Yr obt Servt

Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 6 June 1849

Eliza Whittlesy Esq
First Comptroller
Washington -
Sir

Forwarded from
Boston 6 June

Enclosed is my Bond as
Collector of the Port & District of New Bedford
now returned to you with the required certifi-
cate -

Respectfully

Your obt Servt

Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 6 June 1849.

R H Gillet Esq
Solicitor

Treasury Department

Washington - Sir

Forwarded from
Boston 6 June

Enclosed herewith is my
Bond as Collector of the Port & District of New
Bedford, which I trust will be satisfactory -

Respectfully

Your obt Servt

Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 18 July 1849

J H W Page Esq
New Bedford
Dear Sir

Your frequent intercourse with the people of Wareham gives you personal acquaintance with the business men as well as the influential whigs of that town, and an opportunity to judge impartially of the character & fitness for office of the three applicants for the Deputy Collectorship for that port - namely Benja^r Fearing H. G. C. Ellis and Thos Savery -

Have the goodness to state to me which of these three candidates will in your opinion best perform the duties of that office & give the most satisfaction to the whig party generally of that town -

and oblige your friend
and obt. Serv^t
Wm J. Russell

New Bedford 19 June 1849

Hon. Daniel Webster
Washington City
Dear Sir

I am making the promise to you that Mr Savery shall have the appointment of Revenue Officer at Wareham, such representations have been made to me, as to leave no doubt in my mind that his appointment to that office would not be so acceptable to the business men of Wareham, nor so satisfactory to the whig party generally of that place as H. G. C. Ellis -

It is with extreme reluctance that I take the liberty of troubling you with so small a matter, but the people of Wareham

attach great importance to this office - and
any other appointment than Mr Ellis, would
I have reason to believe lead to difficulties in
the whig ranks of that place -

I enclose a letter herewith from Mr Page
on this subject addressed to me at my request -
His intimate knowledge of the people of Warham
entitles his opinion to great weight, & it is given
I believe with entire disinterestedness, having
no other object than the conciliation of the whig
party of Warham -

Having stated the objections to Mr Savory
I now leave the matter for you to decide whether Mr
Savory or Mr Ellis shall have the appointment -
I have made no promise to either of the candidates
& remain entirely free & uncommitted to all of
them - It will not be necessary to make the
appointment before the 1st of July - the time that
I shall enter upon the duties of my office -

Your having taken an interest in Mr
Savory's appointment I have kept a profound
secret from every body, & it shall remain so -

I am very faithfully & truly

your friend & obt. Serv^t
W. S. Russell

New Bedford 28. May 1849.

Dear Sir

My appointment to the collectorship
of the Port & District of New Bedford has just
been received -

The effective & friendly influence
which you have so obligingly exerted in my
behalf, I consider has secured to me this office,
and places me under an obligation to you
which I am proud to acknowledge and
which I shall always remember with grat-
itude -

Very respectfully

Your obt. Serv^t

Hon. Daniel Webster

W. S. Russell

New Bedford 23 July 1849.

Dear Sir

I expected to have met you in Boston on your return from Washington, as you intimated in your note you would like to see me, and "could tell me something useful in regard to the Treasury Circular". But before I had intelligence of your arrival in Boston, you were at Mansfield. -

The appointment of Deputy Collector at Wareham is still suspended. Savory & Fearing are about equally supported. Ellis is undoubtedly the favorite of the whig party generally of that place. From representations made to me by the business men & influential whigs of Wareham, I believe his appointment will give much greater satisfaction than either of the other candidates "indignation out of the question", and from my personal intercourse with the three candidates I should judge that Mr Ellis will make the most efficient officer. If however you have a personal interest in the appointment of Mr Savory or have much choice about it, he shall have my influence to secure to him the office.

Have the goodness to signify your pleasure & oblige

Yours faithfully

B truly

Wm. J. Russell

Hon Daniel Webster
Boston



